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Paralegal PERSPECTIVES

Paralegal Association of Rochester news and happenings

The Paralegal Association of Rochester, Inc.'s ("PAR") board has been working diligently on many things over the past couple of months and we are happy to share them with our members and community. We also welcome any recommendations for future events and/or suggestions on seminars, so please contact any board member with your input.

PAR hosted a seminar entitled "Paralegal Profession: Where We Are Headed," with speakers Jill A. Warner, RP, PAR board member and litigation paralegal with 24 years of experience, and Deborah J. Wilcox Mabry, PAR board member and trusts and estates paralegal with 37 years of experience, on Jan. 19 at the offices of Nixon Peabody. The seminar was well attended and included a discussion on nationwide certifications, including LLLT, RP, CRP and the regulation of the paralegal profession. Jill and Deborah did an excellent job of providing information to all paralegals and students in attendance.

One of our annual events did not disappoint again this year. PAR offered 25 members and non-members the opportunity to tour the Monroe County Crime Lab on Jan. 27. They were given an overview of DNA screening and analysis, fire debris/trace evidence analysis, firearms and digital evidence and drug chemistry analysis and had the chance to get the "inside information" from some of the lab techs. On behalf of those in attendance, we would like to thank Monroe County and all those that made this wellreceived event possible.

PAR's Trusts and Estate section attended the annual meeting at the Monroe County Surrogate's Court on Feb. 1 at the Hall of Justice. This year's annual meeting provided discussions regarding changes to court procedures, document submissions and processes and the sharing of information



By BONNIE BROOKS
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between the court and the section members. PAR's T&E Section Chair Jane Gorski and the PAR board would like to send a special thank you to Surrogate's Court Chief Clerk Mark Annunziata, Assistant Chief Clerk Sarah Sennett and all of the court clerks for keeping the lines of communications open between the

court and the paralegals who work very hard to keep updated on all court processes.

PAR held a CLE on Feb. 8 entitled "Medicaid/Long-Term Planning" with speaker Richard Marchese, Esq. of Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP. Marchese shared personal scenarios and practice knowledge and discussed long-term care insurance, the fundamentals of Medicaid planning, divestiture of assets, exempt resources, and protections for spouses and families. The seminar was well attended and we have already heard that the information provided by Marchese has been used on at least two occasions at the offices of two members.

PAR is hosting a CLE on March 9 entitled "Social Media and Its Use in the Investigation/Discovery Phase of a Case" with guest speaker Eileen Buholtz, Esq. of Connors, Corcoran & Buholtz, PLLC. Buholtz will cover such topics as common characteristics of social media, evidentiary rules and exceptions, authentication issues, social media postings, text messages, expert testimony, websites and ethical issues. Members and non-members are welcome to visit our website at www.rochesterparalegal.org for details and to register.

Our website has now been updated to include online registration for seminars/events.

While payment still has to be mailed in, the registration has proved to be much easier through PAR's online registration form. We are hopeful that in the near future we will also offer online payments for seminar/event registrations. We are also scheduled to have our website's members-only section rolled out by Friday, so we encourage our members to check the site once they receive the email notification. We are excited to offer members exclusive site pages, including a searchable member directory, newsletters, photo galleries, and a useful sites resource link. In addition, please visit our website's contact page for new email addresses for all PAR officers and directors. Please contact our VP of Website Bonnie Brooks at PARoc.Website@gmail.com with any website questions or inquiries. We would like to send a very special thank you to member Kate Macintyre-Ross for all of her hard work assisting PAR with developing the new site.

PAR offers a career center, including a job board for those employers seeking paralegals. Our members include current paralegals, affiliates, and students who may be looking for new employment and/or opportunities. Our members can subscribe to this forum to be notified of new postings and employers can advertise job opportunities at no charge. Once we are notified that the position is filled or 30 days after the posting (whichever comes first), the post will be removed. We welcome all employers to contact Bonnie Brooks at PARoc.Employment@gmail.com to have their listings posted to our Members-Only portion of the new website.

Bonnie S. Brooks is a paralegal at Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP and PAR's VP of Website/Employment. She can be reached at PARoc.Website@gmail.com or PARoc.Employment@gmail.com.