



Convention News

Approximately 200 of the nation's top paralegals will be descending upon Northwest Arkansas beginning on October 8, 2008, John Q. Hammonds Center at Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas.

ArPA (Arkansas Paralegal Association™) is proudly hosting the 2008 National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) Annual Convention and Seminars. Since 1974 NFPA has proactively supported the growth and expanded role of paralegals nationally. The lineup of distinguished speakers lends the opportunity for excellent learning experiences for paralegals. Continuing legal education hours through NFPA, NALA, and NALS is pending. Segments include topics relating to general paralegal knowledge, enhanced writing and research skills, meeting juror expectations, profitability and the proper use of paralegals, investigation matters, the paralegal role in intellectual property, and more!

- Speakers: Frederick W. Meyers, Esq., partner, Ladas & Parry, former U.S. Trademark Examiner and Chair of the ABA Patent, Trademark & Copyright Committee;
- Scott Foster, 25+ year paralegal, independent paralegal since 1985, co-founder of Paralegals Plus, Inc. and Sr. Vice-President of APEG (Advanced Paralegal Education Group);
- Dana J. Lesemann, Esq., Vice-President and Deputy General County in the Washington, DC office of Stroz Friedberg, LLC, served as Counsel to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees' Joint Inquiry Into the September 11th Attacks;
- Ronnie Forthmon of Bushman Court Reporting, Certified Legal Video Specialist based in Little Rock;
- Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy;
- Michael J. West, CFE, CLI®, CLEI, Certified Fraud Examiner, owner of Arkansas Investigations, served as investigator and federal agent on such notable cases as the sexual assaults at the Air Force Academy and the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal;
- James Crane, Esq., consultant and author with Altep, Inc. specializes in e-discovery best practices, compliance with amended federal rules, provides educational presentations to large law firms and corporate law departments regarding case law developments, the challenges of managing electronically stored

information and the application of technology to meet litigation needs;

- Dr. Paula Gabier, Ph.D., with Decisionquest has practical and academic expertise in designing and conducting methodologically sound research and trial themes;
- Dennis B. Haase, Esq., has a sound law practice in Hot Springs focusing on intellectual property law also serving as SCORE Counsel, Cyberchapter, and recipient of SCORE Platinum Leadership Award;
- Brian L. Duffy, Esq., Shareholder with the firm Greenberg Traurig, is based out of Denver, Colorado and is a renowned trial and appellate attorney,
- Taibi Kahler, Ph.D., President of Kahler Communications, Inc. and Taibi Kahler Associates, Inc., offering clinical, business, educational and spiritual training and profiling; and
- A panel of judges and distinguished attorneys will discuss the ethics involved in the utilization of paralegals.

ArPA will also introduce **Justice Annabelle Clinton-Imber**, speaking at our Friday Luncheon! Justice Clinton-Imber has been an Associate Justice with the Arkansas Supreme Court since 1997. **Justice Clinton-Imber** served as the Chancery and Probate Judge for Perry and Pulaski Counties from 1989-1996 before being elected to the Arkansas Supreme Court. She was appointed Circuit Judge for Pulaski and Perry counties by former Governor Bill Clinton in 1984. Prior to joining the bench, she was a practicing attorney with Wright, Lindsay & Jennings in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Justice Clinton-Imber graduated *magna cum laude* from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She received her Juris Doctor in 1977 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law where she was a Comments Editor on the Law Review. From 1989 to 1994, Justice Clinton-Imber also attended the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Justice Clinton-Imber is currently serving as the Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure of the Supreme Court liaison and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Foster Care and Adoption Assessment of the Supreme Court liaison. She has previously been involved with such committees as the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission as an alternate member, the Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court as a member and has served the public interests through her involvement in community organizations such as the YMCA of Greater Little Rock and Pulaski County, Our House - A Shelter for the Homeless, the UAMS Medical Center - Department of Pastoral Care and Education, and the Kiwanis Club of Little Rock, among many others. Justice Clinton-Imber has received

many awards including, most recently, the Arkansas Business - Top 100 Women in Arkansas award (1995-1998), the Worthen Arkansas Women of Distinction award (1994) and the Arkansas Association of Women Lawyers Judge of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding service (1994).

ArPA and NFPA will be hosting a train ride dinner on fully restored dining cars (thanks to the great folks at the Missouri-Arkansas Railroad). Dueling pianos will be part of the Wednesday reception. And of course, there will be plenty of other networking functions. Paralegal students from the Northwest Arkansas Community College and the University of Arkansas - Ft. Smith will be volunteering throughout the Convention.

You don't want your paralegals, associates and other legal staff to miss this superb educational experience!

For more details, questions, sponsorship and advertising opportunities or exhibitor information, contact our 2008 Convention Host Coordinator, Marilyn Clifton, at (501) 371-9903 or contact our ArPA office at (501) 609-0404. Information and convention news are continually updated on the ArPA website www.arkansasparalegal.org and the NFPA website www.paralegals.org.

ArPA Board of Directors: Kelly S. Montgomery, RP, President, Terri Vanlandingham, Vice President, Paula Adams, RP, VP-Membership, Dee Dee Lantz, RP, VP-CLE & PACE Ambassador, Marilyn Clifton, Secretary, Maggie Haase, RP, Treasurer & Primary Representative, Scott Foster, Secondary Representative.