



## NCPA FORUM

[ncpaforum@ncparalegal.org](mailto:ncpaforum@ncparalegal.org)

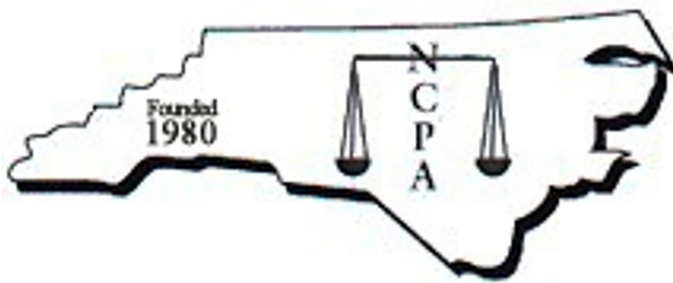
NCPA  
PO Box 1133  
Holly Springs NC 27540  
704-535-3363  
[www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)

To submit materials for publication or to advertise, please contact our Editorial Staff at [ncpaforum@ncparalegal.org](mailto:ncpaforum@ncparalegal.org)

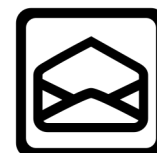
Opinions expressed in articles and features herein are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of NCPA. The Editor strongly encourages the submission of materials for publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit material and accept or reject materials submitted. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without written consent of NCPA.

## Table of Contents

<u>President's Message</u> .....	3
<u>Second VP, Membership's Message</u> .....	4
<u>NCPA News</u> ,.....	5
<u>Chairman's Message</u> .....	6
<u>NALA'S Annual Convention</u> .....	8
<u>Pro Bono Opportunity</u> .....	13
<u>Student Essay Contest</u> .....	15
<u>Courts and The Opioid Crisis by Judge Julius Corpening</u> .....	16
<u>Word Search</u> .....	20
<u>Calendar of Events</u> .....	22
<u>Contact Us</u> .....	23
<u>How do I deal with Being Burntout by Kirsten Nicholson</u> .....	25



**Have you moved? Please login to your profile and check your contact information. We use email as our primary means to contact members. Please be sure your information is up to date!**



**President's Message**  
**Beverly K. Moore, NCCP**



Vacations have been taken, the school shopping has been done, school traffic is back in full swing, and pumpkin spice is everywhere. FALL IS AROUND THE CORNER!! It is my favorite time of the year. I look forward to those cooler temps, football, marching band and time with family.

I had a busy summer, like so many of you. One of the highlights was representing NCPA at the NALA Annual Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The hotel was situated right next to Cardinal Stadium and within walking distance to the Arch. It was a beautiful view. Excellent CLE and networking as well. Thank you to Michele Bryant, ACP, NCCP for her awesome work on the NCPA table. The buttons, Cheerwine and mints were a hit.

I know I have said this before, but there truly is nothing like attending a live CLE conference. The networking and live instruction you receive just does not compare to video.

The NCPA Executive Board and Committees have been hard at work all summer preparing meet and greets and NCPA's Annual Meeting and Seminar. We hope to see you at an NCPA event soon.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I love hearing from NCPA members!

*Beverly K. Moore, NCCP*



**Membership Report**  
**Patricia F Clapper, ACP, NCCP**  
**2nd Vice President**



**Membership Report**

Sept 2, 2018

**Membership Per Membership Status:**

184 General

27 Associate

57 Student

5 Sustaining – Courtlogic (Gold), Ruffin Consulting (Gold), Lawyers Mutual Insurance (Bronze), Registered Agent Solutions (Bronze) and Alliant National Title (Bronze)

2 Education – Carteret Community College and Meredith College

**Membership Per District:**

District 1: 18

District 2: 87

District 3: 14

District 4: 65

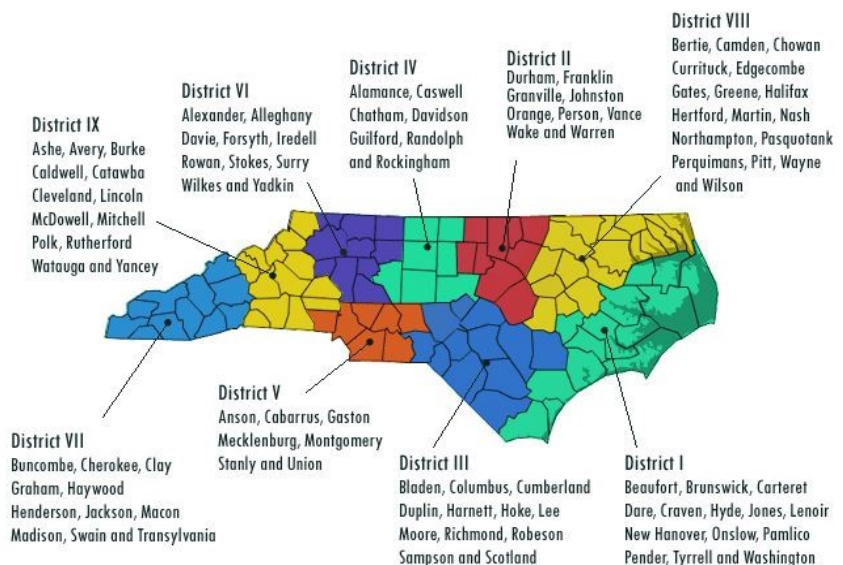
District 5: 42

District 6: 20

District 7: 6

District 8: 6

District 9: 12



Patti

Patti Clapper, ACP, NCCP

2nd VP/Membership Chair

# NCPA NEWS



## SAVE THE DATE

**We're going back to the  
BEACH!!!**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**April 11 – April 13, 2019**

**NCPA's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar &  
Meeting**

**Courtyard Carolina Beach Ocean-  
front**

**COURTYARD By MARRIOTT**

**100 Charlotte Avenue, Carolina  
Beach, NC**

NCPA appreciates the support of its Sustaining Members! Please check out their services and let them know you heard about them from NCPA!

[CourtLogic](#)

[Ruffin Consulting](#)

[Lawyers Mutual](#)

[Registered Agent Solutions](#)

[Alliant National Title Insurance Company](#)



**Did you know that many of our annual seminar sessions are available online, on demand for CPE credit? Each session is 1 hour of CPE credit. Registration information is on [our website](#).**





# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS NEWS

## Chairman's Message Heather Padgett, NCCP



I hope this issue of the FORUM finds you all well and settled past the back-to-school chaos (even if your only back-to-school tradition is leaving earlier to avoid the school buses on the road!). As I write this, it still feels like we're in the midst of summer, with 90 degree temperatures and stifling humidity; however, fall will be here soon enough, with its pumpkin-spiced everything and cooler temperatures. Fall has always been my favorite season –the weather, the food (oyster roasts, anyone?), and absolutely no pressure to find the perfect gift.

I also seem to find more time to read. If litigation is your bailiwick, I recommend checking out the fall edition of the State Bar Journal. There are two articles in particular that I found extremely interesting. The first is by Alyson A. Grine, entitled, "A New Approach: Jury Instruction on the Decreased Reliability of Cross-Racial Identifications" It discusses the potential benefits of a cross-racial identification jury instruction, given the troubling history of eyewitness misidentification in criminal cases. The second is a reflection about trial lawyers from the Honorable Donald W. Stephens. It is a piece that makes you think about the difference between a litigator and a trial lawyer from someone who has had the opportunity to observe both.

Okay, to the business at hand! First, mark your calendars! The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar and Meeting will be April 11 – 13, 2019. You'll probably be sick of hearing all of the Board and Executive Committee say this, but next year's annual is a little later than normal, and we're going back to the beach, so we want to make sure you block out those days because you're not going to want to miss out. Carolina Beach is right in my backyard and I'm looking forward to welcoming everyone to town. Your Board and Executive Committee are going to be hard at work in the coming weeks putting together a fantastic program, so stay tuned for details.

I hope everyone is taking the opportunity to attend any scheduled meet and greets in your district. If one hasn't been scheduled in your district, be on the lookout. We hope to have one in each district before the end of the year. District directors, if you need ideas or help in scheduling, please get in contact – we have resources to help! If you're interesting in helping to plan an event and you're not on the Board or Executive Committee, please speak up – we'll put you in contact with your district director, who I'm sure will welcome the help.

I hope everyone has a great finish to the end of the year. As always, if you have comments or suggestions, please reach out. We love hearing from you.

Heather Padgett, NCCP

[padgett.hn@gmail.com](mailto:padgett.hn@gmail.com)



# NALA ANNUAL CONVENTION

## LIASON REPORT By Michelle Bryant

As your NALA Liaison, I attended the 2018 NALA Conference & Expo in St. Louis, Missouri July 11-13<sup>th</sup>. I was accompanied by several other members of NCPA. The Conference was held at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. As always, the conference was full of amazing speakers and lots of networking with other paralegals. On Wednesday night, I set up NCPA's booth at the Affiliate Showcase which was in a room overlooking the St. Louis Arch. Of course, there was all sorts of swag to be had! NCPA gave away North Carolina pins, Cheerwine made in North Carolina and mints made by Red Bird, also made right here in North Carolina. Beverly and I greeted visitors to NCPA's booth all evening. I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend a NALA conference to attend!

Go ahead and mark your calendars for July 11-13<sup>th</sup> for the 2019 NALA Conference to be held at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale (Phoenix), Arizona!





# 2018 NALA CONVENTION













We believe in a world where  
independent agents thrive.

[joinalliantnational.com](http://joinalliantnational.com)

**SERVICES WITH RESULTS**  
NATIONWIDE SERVICES PROVIDED

**COURT REPORTING**  
**TRANSCRIPTION** (AOC Provider)  
**HEARING TRANSCRIPTS**  
**INTERPRETING** (Certified)  
**TRANSLATION**  
**DEPOSITION & TRIAL SUMMARIES**  
**VIDEO TRANSCRIPT SYNCING**  
**TRIAL VIDEO EDITING**  
**LIVE DEPOSITION STREAMING**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCING**


**Developing your case  
for settlement or trial  
has never been  
more efficient.**

Synced transcript with video **NOW AVAILABLE**  
Communicate with and see the witness from your own office.



**AVAILABLE 24/7 AT (252)243-9000**

**Bonnie Ruffin, NCCP, CLVS**

bonnier@ruffinconsulting.com |  @LawFirmSupport | www.ruffinconsulting.com



## Helpful Links

NCPA — [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org)

NALA - [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org)

NC State Bar Board of Paralegal Certification - [www.nccertifiedparalegal.org](http://www.nccertifiedparalegal.org)

NC State Bar — [www.ncbar.gov](http://www.ncbar.gov)

## ETHICS CORNER

NCCPs can now access an online, interactive, one-hour trust account management continuing legal education course on the North Carolina Bar Association's website. The program, a joint project of the North Carolina State Bar and the North Carolina Bar Association, provides the most current explanation of the management duties for a lawyer's trust account, and satisfies the provision in Rule 1.15-2 (s) of the Rules of Professional Conduct requiring anyone with trust account signatory authority to complete a one-hour trust account management CLE course. Each one-hour program includes great content and helpful resources and is available **free of charge to North Carolina State Bar licensed lawyers until February 2018, and until further notice for certified paralegals**. These high quality online trust account management programs were produced by the North Carolina Bar Association and the State Bar and are sponsored in part by Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company, Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, and the Board of Paralegal Certification.

<https://www.ncbar.gov/news-and-publications/news-notice/2017/10/free-trust-account-management-cle-course-available-to-members-paralegals/>







# CHECK IT OUT!!

## 2018 - 2019 NCPA Pro Bono Opportunities

*"Thanks again for the supplies you have sent my troops and I. It means so much when groups like you support us in every way possible. As you may know we are from NC and this makes it even more special when it comes from our Home State. Thanks again.....1SG Howell."*



*"I am Captain Heiderman, the Headquarters Company Commander for the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade. We recently received several boxes of treats, hygiene items, and holiday decorations thanks to generous donations from your organizations!"*

*... I just wanted to send a quick message to express a sincere THANK YOU to all of you that helped put this together. We can tell that it was no small effort and my soldiers and I appreciate it very much.*

*Thank you all for what you do. "*



For several years, NCPA has supported Military Missions in Action, a North Carolina based non-profit. We have collected care package items and traveled to Fuquay-Varina to sort items and fill the care packages for overseas personnel.

As your new Pro Bono Chair, I want to energize us to continue our support of MMIA and to expand our efforts to show appreciation to active service members and veterans.

We will have opportunities to make and address Thank You cards and Christmas cards for overseas military servicemen and women, and to prepare "Valentines for Veterans" for patients in North Carolina's four Veterans Administration hospitals.

We'll also have opportunities to collect donations to pay for shipping care packages to troops outside the U.S. and to provide specific items needed by patients in VA hospitals.

Please contact me if you would like to learn more about making thoughtful, appreciated contributions to our military personnel and veterans.

Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP

Email: [paralegal878@earthlink.net](mailto:paralegal878@earthlink.net)

Telephone: 336-686-6847

# CHECK IT OUT!!

NCPA Associate Member Adero Rice of Charlotte knows what it is like to be part of a military family serving far from home. Her husband recently retired from the Army Reserves after 34 years of service. When he was in Iraq, the letters and care packages he received really meant a lot to him. To pay this appreciation forward, Adero volunteered to help NCPA reach out to U. S. military service members and veterans.

With supplies and art materials provided by Pro Bono Chair Elizabeth Vance, Adero organized a group of residents from her apartment community and challenged them to get creative - and WOW! - did they! Community members Barbara, Richard, Patricia, Naomi, Eva, Brenda, Louise, Brian, Lula, Mary, and Phillip got together, shared their creative energy, and created masterpiece cards until the materials were completely used. Home-bound residents who could not come out to the event signed commercially printed, patriotic-themed thank you cards to show their appreciation to our overseas service members.



Mendy Allgood, Director of Operations and Administration for Military Missions in Action, notified us that the cards will be included in the organization's next overseas shipment of care packages and stated, "We very much appreciate you all doing those and we know the active duty members do as well."

Adero's group members enjoyed their activity so much that they plan to get together again to create "Valentine's For Veterans," which will be distributed to patients at North Carolina's Veterans Administration Hospitals.

If you would be interested in participating in making cards or organizing a fundraiser to help MMIA pay shipping costs for the care packages, contact Pro Bono Chair Elizabeth Vance, [paralegal878@earthlink.net](mailto:paralegal878@earthlink.net) or by phone 336-686-6847.





## ATTENTION PARALEGAL STUDENTS

### NCPA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY  
*NORTH CAROLINA PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC.*

The North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc. ("NCPA") will be sponsoring its annual Student Scholarship Essay Contest opening October 1, 2018. Any paralegal student enrolled in an accredited North Carolina paralegal educational program is eligible. An essay competition will be the basis of the scholarship.

**Essay Topic:** "I have chosen to be a paralegal..."

**Essay Requirements:** The essays must be typed, double spaced, and on letter sized paper. They may not exceed two pages in length. Please be aware that spelling, grammar and punctuation will be taken into consideration, so please review your work before submitting. The essays will be judged anonymously, so do not reference your name or your paralegal program within the body of the essay. Please provide a cover page providing your contact information and paralegal program.

<b>Awards**:</b>	<b>First Place:</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
	<b>Second Place:</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
	<b>Third Place:</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
	<b>Fourth Place:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

In addition to the scholarship, all awards include one free student registration to NCPA's 39th Annual Seminar and Meeting to be held April 11-13, 2019 in Carolina Beach, NC.

**Send your typewritten essays by January 1, 2019 to (email is preferred):**

Charlotte A. Ward, NCCP  
Student/School Relations Chair  
[info@ncparalegal.org](mailto:info@ncparalegal.org)

PO Box 1133

Holly Springs, NC 27540

Please contact Charlotte A. Ward at (919) 906-1822 with any questions.

**\*\*The final number of scholarships to be awarded will be at the discretion of the judges. All award scholarship checks will be made payable to the winners' educational facility. Please note that winners for the previous year are ineligible.\*\***

# **Courts and the Opioid Crisis**

*By Judge Julius H. Corpening*



The United States is mired in an opioid epidemic. The Center for Disease Control reports that in 2016 more than 63,600 people died from drug overdoses. CBS News reported in October 2017 that approximately three-fourths of all drug overdose deaths are now caused by opioids, including heroin, prescription painkillers, and synthetic versions like fentanyl. As a matter of perspective, the National Archives reports that 58,220 Americans died during the entire Vietnam War.

This epidemic has engulfed North Carolina. Division of Health and Human Services statistics reflect that 12,000 North Carolina residents died from opioid-related overdoses between 1999-2016. By 2014, death by drug overdose passed death both by motor vehicle and firearm in North Carolina. The Center for Disease Control estimates the cost of unintentional opioid-related overdoses in 2015 at \$1.3 billion. In addition, a Castlight Health Study in 2016 placed four North Carolina cities in the top 25 in America for prescription opioid abuse, with Wilmington leading the way at number one, followed by Hickory (fifth), Jacksonville (12th), and Fayetteville (18th).

Our courts are at the epicenter of this crisis, and the ripple effect of this epidemic spreads across our system, through superior courts, district courts, juvenile courts, and special proceedings, and touches the lives of our court employees as well. Ultimate solutions to this crisis can only be found by cooperating across systems, and our courts must provide leadership at the state and local level in bringing change and responding cooperatively with other systems.

Change starts at the top, and in 2017 Chief Justice Mark Martin enrolled North Carolina in the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative (RJOI). He convened a collaborative group to participate in RJOI, and to work both within the state and across state lines in support of the initiative. The North Carolina workgroup includes representatives from the judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts, public health at the state and local level, health, public safety, corrections, and others.

RJOI now consists of eight states: North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Members of the RJOI are working to provide education, training, and technical assistance across systems regarding the epidemic, and tools to combat it. Members are collecting and sharing data to study trends and to target areas for intervention. Members are working to create pilot programs for evidence based interventions, and programs in targeted multi-state sites, as in cities and counties along state borders.

One of the first directives from the chief justice for the court-related members of this new collaborative was to deliver training on the opioid crisis across the entire judicial branch. This crisis knows no boundaries, and touches families everywhere. It is critically important for employees of the branch to have training that enhances both their personal and professional response to the crisis. Judge Duane Slone from Tennessee, chair of the RJOI, made presentations at the District and Superior Court Judges Fall Conferences in 2017. Corey Ellis, assistant United States attorney for the western district of North Carolina, presented at the Court Managers Fall Educational Conference and the Elected Clerks of Superior Court Fall Educational Conference in 2017. Dr. Blake Fagan of the Mountain Area Health Education Center is slated to speak in 2018 at the Court Managers Spring Educational Conference, the District and Superior Court Judges Summer Conferences, and the Magistrates Fall Conference. Plans are ongoing to ensure that this critical training touches all members of the judicial branch.

The issue of drug treatment courts came up in the conversations of the North Carolina RJOI collaborative. Treatment courts remain one of the most effective tools for the court system to respond to addicts whose lives intersect the criminal justice system; however, since funding for drug treatment courts was eliminated by the General Assembly, treatment courts exist in only 22 out of 44 judicial districts, funded by county governments, grants, and other funding sources. These courts vary widely in purpose, structure, and sustainability. In an attempt to bring consistency across the state, streamline administrative functions, and to be more effective in responding to the needs of those with substance abuse, mental health, or other special needs, the discussions on the need for treatment courts now center on a model known as the Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Court (JMARC), developed and modeled by Chief District Court Judge Joe Buckner in Orange County.

In the JMARC model, defendants with either a substance abuse or behavioral health disorder (or both) with an inability to navigate treatment can be referred. Accountability and recovery is built on a community recovery collaborative, taking advantage of partnerships across the community to meet the needs of the participants. Case management and access to medical and behavioral health therapy are the key components to the model. In a recovery court model, the court does not dictate treatment. The court supports the individual's treatment plan as determined by the treatment provider. Most importantly, the model supports providing services to those served by the various treatment court models in North Carolina under one administrative organization, enhances services, and brings consistency in the same structure.





Design work is underway for a comprehensive template for individual jurisdictions to develop a judicially-managed accountability and recovery court. Next steps include developing statewide and community collaborations, and identifying and coordinating statewide and community resources for accountability and recovery. Funding remains an issue and will need to be addressed by the General Assembly.

If ever there was a time to fund treatment courts across the state, the time is now. Judges across the state are fighting for the lives of citizens that appear before them who have substance abuse and mental health issues. The JMARC model offers flexibility and responsiveness to address these issues.

One other point needs to be made about treatment courts and the response of any court to a person suffering from opioid use disorder. One of the conversations that comes up in meetings with representatives from public health and the medical community who specialize in addiction is about Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). The question that is often asked is "When will judges accept MAT as the most effective response to opioid use disorder?" The bigger questions are, "When will the entire legal community accept MAT as the most effective response to opioid use disorder? And when will society stop stigmatizing those who use these medicines to treat their disorder?" The answer to these questions is found in education and an evolution in thinking. The opioid crisis is different than any other drug crisis we have faced as a society, and requires a different response. A medical provider recently shared that in dealing with opioid use disorder, detox and abstinence has a success rate of about 10%. Patients being treated with methadone and buprenorphine have a success rate of about 60%. The North Carolina Public Health Action Plan on Opioids calls for expanding MAT in response to the opioid epidemic. Some in public health have called MAT the gold standard in responding to opioid use disorder. In a forum at Wake Forest University Medical School last fall, several professors of medicine who are addiction specialists called for the destigmatization of MAT, and for a focus on the individual needs of each patient, which often includes MAT as a response to opioid use disorder.

It is also incumbent on local courts to be proactive in response to the opioid epidemic. A crisis of this proportion calls for new kinds of partnerships, and new ideas in responding to the needs of those we serve. Sometimes this involves judges stepping off the bench and into leadership roles that are a critical part of the response to this crisis. Judges work in the intersection of many systems of care, and are uniquely positioned to bring those systems together to work collaboratively to address issues affecting our litigants, including this epidemic.

An example of a new kind of partnership is a Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG). The New Hanover County CJAG was formed two years ago, and is composed of the city manager, county manager, sheriff, Wilmington chief of police, UNC-Wilmington police chief, Wrightsville Beach police chief, Carolina Beach police chief, Kure Beach police chief, district attorney, clerk of court, senior resident superior court judge, chief district court judge, district manager for probation, chief court counselor, public defender, and the head of New Hanover County Community Justice Services. The group meets every other month with subcommittees meeting in the off months. Meetings are led by a trained facilitator to develop action plans in each of five areas of focus. The New Hanover County CJAG is currently working on responses to the opioid crisis, gang violence, youth crime and violence, courthouse efficiencies, and sex offenses.

The work of the New Hanover County CJAG on the opioid crisis centers largely on bringing a heightened awareness of the crisis to New Hanover County citizens. The group has partnered with New Hanover County Television to produce five public service announcements about the crisis. These PSAs have aired on local news and New Hanover County TV, and have been distributed on social media for New Hanover County and the North Carolina Judicial Branch. The most recent PSA aired for approximately six weeks in all movie theaters operated by Regal Cinemas and Stone Cinemas in New Hanover County. These PSAs are available on the New Hanover County YouTube site, which can be accessed through the county's website under NHC TV.

Another example of a new kind of partnership is the Community Partners Coalition (CPC) for New Hanover County formed in March 2017 through the leadership of the South East Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC). This coalition is truly a cross system collaboration, and works to improve collaboration and coordination between those who provide care to individuals seeking access to mental health and substance abuse services. The CPC includes representatives from education, public health, health care, mental health and substance abuse, courts, government, housing, first responders, faith based community, business, transportation, and others. The coalition was built using a collective impact model. At this time, action teams are underway in carrying out the action plans.

There have already been two significant outcomes from the work of the Community Partners Coalition. Funding has been secured to form a Quick Response Team to respond to individuals who have had an overdose reversed by the administration of Narcan™. The team includes police, firefighters, and paramedics working together connected by a social worker/case manager. The purpose of the team is to encourage these individuals to seek treatment and to help them access treatment.



The second outcome is the pilot of a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program in the Wilmington Police Department, which allows officers to redirect low level offenders engaged in drugs to community based services instead of jail.

Soon after the Community Partners Coalition began to work, it became clear that another partnership needed to be formed. As a result, the Health Leadership Council was formed in September 2017. The council has 17 members, including the mayor, chair of the Board of Commissioners, chief of police, sheriff, chief district court judge, district attorney, chief physician executive at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, the executive director of SEAHEC, DSS director, public health director, the executive officers of several behavioral health and substance abuse treatment agencies, and a member of the clergy. These leaders were chosen by the coalition at large, and will serve as the executive steering committee for the coalition, assisting in policy change, effectively aligning resources, and influencing health improvement in our region. The most important outcome of the work of the Health Leadership Council to date has been to secure a commitment for funding to build a 100 bed “wet drop” treatment facility in Wilmington modeled after Healing Transitions in Wake County.

These three partnerships are examples of how local courts must work collaboratively across systems of care to address the opioid epidemic in creative ways. Our local courts must also be creative in finding new ways to reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic. One example is found in a New Hanover County DSS program called Intensive Reunification. The program was born out of a need to find a better response to addicted moms giving birth to addicted babies. The general course of action used to be for DSS to take legal custody of the child soon after birth, remove the parents from the hospital, offer parents one hour a week of supervised visitation, and set a case plan including substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, employment, housing, parenting classes, and so forth. These cases stayed open for a year or more, and the chances of success were slim. Moms rarely bonded with their children, and all too often the result was termination of parental rights.

The Intensive Reunification Program is designed to deal with young addicted parents and their babies in a more effective way. The social worker carries a caseload of three to five families as opposed to 20 or more, and serves as the foundation for a team to work with the family. The social worker is the point of contact for the family and their drug treatment provider. An intensive reunification specialist from Methodist Homes for Children is an important part of the team, and assists in expanding opportunities for visitation. A parenting coach provides more intensive learning opportunities than the parenting classes that are usually available. DSS contracts for a mental health therapist to see the parents in order to control both access to services and quality of the services. Intensive in Home Services and Care Coordination for Children (Public Health CC4C) are also involved in the team. The team is able to offer families three to five extended visits each week (sometimes more). The visits happen more quickly in the home because of the specialized nature of the team. A new mom is able to breastfeed and have the regular skin-on-skin contact needed for bonding. Biweekly child and family team meetings are held with the entire team and family to review both progress and any bumps that need to be smoothed. The goal of this intensive level of work is to make a trial home placement within 90 days, and to return custody within six months. The program is now in its third year, and is already achieving placement with parents in four months or less in 70% of the cases. The differences in the attitude of the parents, in the atmosphere in the courtroom, and in the outcomes of the cases are dramatically different. The parents smile, sometimes shed tears of joy, and express their thanks for the ability to participate in the program. They hold their heads high with hope for the future, and work incredibly hard to be successful. The courtroom cheers for these parents when trial home placement is made, or when custody is returned. This is a dramatically different outcome from before.

The Intensive Reunification Program is expensive to operate with small caseloads and contracted services. That said, the long-term savings of reuniting families sooner, and helping them be successful in the long term, far outweigh these costs. Even though expensive at the front end of a case, this type of response should be defined as reasonable efforts in these situations. The program has attracted enough attention that plans are now underway for a program that will work with an addicted mom through pregnancy, providing services and support, and will provide housing for an extended period of time, all in an effort to avoid separating mom and baby to begin with.

Another example of innovation is a new partnership between courts, DSS, and public health to deliver a Voluntary Long Acting Reversible Contraception (VLARC) Education Class. Modeled after a program that is now statewide in Tennessee, the VLARC classes will be delivered by health educators in the county health departments of New Hanover and Pender Counties. The curriculum has been developed by those educators. Referrals to the class will be made by judges in DSS court, much as a referral is made for parenting classes. Once a participant has completed the class, the decision to choose contraception or not is entirely up to the participant. There is little or no cost for the contraception because there is already a budget that offers the contraception on a sliding scale basis. The Tennessee program that these programs are based upon has been successfully audited under Title 10 for voluntariness.

The idea is to educate families that have already had a child removed (more than likely because of substance abuse) about options that are completely reversible, and to provide a chance to get to a better place in their lives before having more children. The two counties in Tennessee that originally piloted this program saw a one-third reduction in the number of neonatal abstinence syndrome births in the first year after offering the classes, just through education and voluntary participation. State public health has vetted the program, and classes will launch in the two counties in April 2018. Why is this type of education important? The number of neonatal abstinence syndrome births in New Hanover County tripled in 2017 from 2016. The costs of these births—including the impact on the babies and the families, and the costs of medical care—are extreme. Tennessee has shown us that a little voluntary planning can mitigate these numbers.

There is much work to be done, and many opportunities exist for innovation and improvement at the state and local level, both within the court system and in our communities by courts partnering across systems to address the crisis. The time to lead is now.

*This article represents opinions of the author. The author is not a spokesperson for the judicial branch. This article deals only with issues with which the author has experience, and is not an attempt to describe every issue or response in the court system or in communities to the opioid crisis.*

*Judge J. H. Corpening has served as a district court judge since 1991, and currently serves as the chief district court judge for the 5th Judicial District (New Hanover and Pender Counties). He is active on the bench, in his community, and across the state and country on issues affecting children and their families. He is a member of the Chief Justice's RJOI, and is an active member of the CJAG and Health Leadership Councils in his community, addressing the opioid crisis.*

This article is property of the North Carolina State Bar and is reprinted with the permission of the North Carolina State Bar. Judge Julius H. Corpening Fall 2018, Courts and The Opioid Crisis in J.R. Duncan, Editor. The Journal, Volume 23, Number 3.



## COURTS AND THE OPIOID CRISIS



# Pumpkin Spice Everything

N C O S T U M E S E S R J L A  
K R X L S X G B N K N O R E L  
S I E V E W L E Q A I L K G C  
M E R T S A E M C C F L Y G L  
B C I E N W V A I E F S X I K  
Y B Y K O A D E T S U Q S N T  
G S E L O S L B S E M L K G L  
J T L C E O O O M E R S L S F  
S A Y T W O C B K H Y S P A V  
H Q T C T T Q T K C X E H C F  
X A A S F K C E N J A X E X K  
L V L W N I K P M U P J I V U  
C K W T A J F P E C P W P N C  
S F L N H K M Z K Z I V Z X W  
C O F F E E O U S X I J P N X

BLANKETS

COSTUMES

BOOTS

HALLOWEEN

CHEX

JACKOLANTERN

COFFEE

LEAVES

MIX

PIE

FALL

MUFFINS

LEGGINGS

SWEATERS

LATTES

ROLLS

PUMPKIN

CHEESECAKE

COOKIES





We've got ANOTHER holiday to worry about.  
It seems Thanksgiving Day is upon us.



I haven't even finished eating all of my Halloween candy!

## Registered Agent Solutions, Inc.

Learn more about partnering with RASi for all of your nationwide registered agent & corporate transactional needs.

**Trust us to be the business behind your business.**

- Incorporations/Formations
- Name Availability
- Business Licensing
- Independent Directors
- FEIN Registration
- Fictitious Name/DBA Filings
- Foreign Qualifications
- Registrations
- Certificate of Good Standing
- Annual Reports
- Corporate Amendments
- Mergers & Reinstatements
- Dissolutions/Withdrawals
- Tax Clearances
- International Services
- Apostilles & Authentications
- UCC Searches/Filings
- U.S. District Litigation Searches



Contact James Crawford at [jcrawford@rasi.com](mailto:jcrawford@rasi.com) or 815-861-4560 to learn more about partnering with RASi.



**"We aren't selling insurance. We're building relationships."** Those words from our former president John Beard say it best.

Whether it's working with local bar groups, listening to community boards or meeting with solo practitioners, NC lawyers inspire everything we do. From succession planning tools to state-of-the-art CLE, we are committed to your well-being.

From law schools to law firms, from coast to mountains, our relationships are our legacy ... and our innovation.

800.662.8843 [www.lawyersmutualinc.com](http://www.lawyersmutualinc.com)



# Calendar of Events

## DEADLINES

- ♦ Student Essay Contest— January 1, 2019 (Winner announced at NCPA 39th Annual Seminar)



## UPCOMING NCPA CALENDAR EVENTS 2018

- ♦ April 11-13, 2019—NCPA 39th Annual Seminar @ Carolina Beach (woohoo!!)
- ♦ July 11-13, 2019—NALA Conference to be held at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale (Phoenix), Arizona!





## 2018-2019 NCPA Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs

### Officers:

President	Beverly K. Moore, NCCP	(C)704-609-9401	<a href="mailto:bev@tissuelaw.com">bev@tissuelaw.com</a>
1st VP (Education)	Sue Bennett, NCCP	(C)919-414-7463	<a href="mailto:sueatti08@gmail.com">sueatti08@gmail.com</a>
2nd VP (Membership)	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jennifer Smith Stuphin, ACP, NCCP	(C)336-212-9346	<a href="mailto:jennifer.smith-sutphin@greensboro-nc.gov">jennifer.smith-sutphin@greensboro-nc.gov</a>
Treasurer	Kaye Hare, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-475-2084	<a href="mailto:khare@walkerlambe.com">khare@walkerlambe.com</a>
Parliamentarian	Martha L. Blackman-Hughes, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-606-0236	<a href="mailto:mlblackman-hughes@nc.rr.com">mlblackman-hughes@nc.rr.com</a>
NALA Liaison	Michele Bryant, CP, NCCP	(C)336-682-4195	<a href="mailto:mtuttle@wakehealth.edu">mtuttle@wakehealth.edu</a>

### Directors:

I	Heather Padgett, NCCP	(C)910-515-6402	<a href="mailto:heather.padgett@wilmingtonnc.gov">heather.padgett@wilmingtonnc.gov</a>
II	Lakisha A. Chichester, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-358-0861	<a href="mailto:lakisha.chichester@self-help.org">lakisha.chichester@self-help.org</a>
III	Michelle "Shelly" Troutman, NCCP	(C)931-801-5821	<a href="mailto:shelley@woodsdooster.com">shelley@woodsdooster.com</a>
IV	Amanda Odom	(C)336-209-7119	<a href="mailto:akodom823@gmail.com">akodom823@gmail.com</a>
V	Karen L. Wood, NCCP	(C)704-779-7207	<a href="mailto:krneagl3@yahoo.com">krneagl3@yahoo.com</a>
VI	Michele Bryant, CP, NCCP	(C)336-682-4195	<a href="mailto:mtuttle@wakehealth.edu">mtuttle@wakehealth.edu</a>
VII	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
VIII	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
IX	Jen Hollar, NCCP	(C)828-962-7812	<a href="mailto:hollar_jen@yahoo.com">hollar_jen@yahoo.com</a>
Affiliate Director	Jennifer Eason, CP	(C)919-452-4451	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Eason@allscripts.com">Jennifer.Eason@allscripts.com</a>
Attorney Advisors	Joseph N. Tissue, Esq.	(W) 704-321-4745	<a href="mailto:joe@tissuelaw.com">joe@tissuelaw.com</a>
Chairman of the Board	Heather Padgett, NCCP	(C)910-515-6402	<a href="mailto:heather.padgett@wilmingtonnc.gov">heather.padgett@wilmingtonnc.gov</a>
	Jennifer Smith-Stuphin, ACP, NCCP	(C)336-202-9346	<a href="mailto:jennifer.smith-sutphin@greensboro-nc.gov">jennifer.smith-sutphin@greensboro-nc.gov</a>
Board Secretary	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
At Large Director	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past President	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>

### Committee Chairs

Audit Chair	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@gmail.com">lglduck@gmail.com</a>
Associations Network Committee Chair	Jennifer Eason, CP	(C)919-452-4451	<a href="mailto:Jennifer.Eason@allscripts.com">Jennifer.Eason@allscripts.com</a>
Annual Seminar Co-Chairs/Registration	Lakisha A. Chichester, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-358-0861	<a href="mailto:lakisha.chichester@self-help.org">lakisha.chichester@self-help.org</a>
	Crystal L. Robinson, NCCP	(C)336-212-1513	<a href="mailto:crissi1975@gmail.com">crissi1975@gmail.com</a>
NCCP Review Course	Yazmeen Gadall	(w)336-717-9163	<a href="mailto:ygadalla@waldrepllp.com">ygadalla@waldrepllp.com</a>
Ethics Chair	Katelyn Morton		<a href="mailto:KatelynMorton@thefreshmarket.net">KatelynMorton@thefreshmarket.net</a>
	Martha L. Blackman-Hughes, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-606-0236	<a href="mailto:mlblackman-hughes@nc.rr.com">mlblackman-hughes@nc.rr.com</a>
Historian	Belinda Thomas, ACP, NCCP	(C)336-675-5851	<a href="mailto:bat5853@bellsouth.net">bat5853@bellsouth.net</a>
Long Range Planning Chair	Paulene Scott Kearney, NCCP	(C)919-671-9439	<a href="mailto:pkearney@smithdebnamlaw.com">pkearney@smithdebnamlaw.com</a>
Mentoring Chairs	Denise Forbes	(C)919-452-7649	<a href="mailto:denise.forbes@durhamnc.gov">denise.forbes@durhamnc.gov</a>
Nominations and Elections Chair	Landon McKinney	(C) 336-607-4046	<a href="mailto:llmckinn@ncsu.edu">llmckinn@ncsu.edu</a>
Convention Coordinator	Michele Bryant, CP, NCCP	(C)336-682-4195	<a href="mailto:mtuttle@wakehealth.edu">mtuttle@wakehealth.edu</a>
	Rebecca Adams		<a href="mailto:nailztek4u@yahoo.com">nailztek4u@yahoo.com</a>
NC Land Records Task Force Chair	Victoria Quarles, NCSB/CP	(C)919-272-8980	<a href="mailto:Victoria.Quarles@Yahoo.com">Victoria.Quarles@Yahoo.com</a>
NCSBar Bd of Plg Cert Liaison	Yolanda N. Smith, ACP, NCCP	(C)919-274-5363	<a href="mailto:ynsmith72@gmail.com">ynsmith72@gmail.com</a>
Patron & Sustaining Membership Chair	Crystal L. Robinson, NCCP	(C)336-212-1513	<a href="mailto:crissi1975@gmail.com">crissi1975@gmail.com</a>
Pro Bono Chair	Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP	(C)336-686-6847	<a href="mailto:paralegal878@earthlink.net">paralegal878@earthlink.net</a>



### 2018-2019 NCPA Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs (Continued)

#### Committee Chairs (Continued)

Public Relations / Senior Editor	Jen Hollar, NCCP	(C)828-962-7812	<a href="mailto:hollar_jen@yahoo.com">hollar_jen@yahoo.com</a>
	Tiffany Jolley, NCCP	(C)828-744-1291	<a href="mailto:tfjolley@gmail.com">tfjolley@gmail.com</a>
Advertising Editor	Abigail Powell, NCCP	(C)919-915-1273	<a href="mailto:acp0923@gmail.com">acp0923@gmail.com</a>
Student/School Relations	Charlotte A. Ward, NCCP	(C)919-906-1822	<a href="mailto:ward_charlotte@yahoo.com">ward_charlotte@yahoo.com</a>
Survey Chair	OPEN		
Technology Chair	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@aol.com">lglduck@aol.com</a>
NCPA Coordinator	Patricia F. Clapper, ACP, NCCP	(C) 919-210-0197	<a href="mailto:lglduck@aol.com">lglduck@aol.com</a>





## **How do I deal with being burnt out?**

**By Kirsten Nicholson**

**How do you deal with being burnt out? I'm the sole paralegal for a sole practitioner. No receptionist, I do it all. We have recently doubled our business, but I'm now having to work 10-12 hour days and weekends to keep us from falling behind. My lawyer literally cannot use a computer at all, so I draft everything from emails to pleadings. My lawyer is very nice to me, but he is a very negative person, so his constant complaining is not helping my mood. I also cannot take a vacation day without constant texts and phone calls, so there is no time for me to really unwind. I'm hitting my breaking point. Any suggestions before I end up quitting?**

**Please forward your suggestions to  
[ncpaforum@ncparaleglal.com](mailto:ncpaforum@ncparaleglal.com)**





**GOLD SUSTAINING MEMBER**

Ruffin Consulting, Inc.  
*Litigation Support Services*  
*Court Reporting \* Transcription Interpreting*  
Bonnie Ruffin  
PO Box 7268  
Wilson NC 27895  
800-209-7587

[bonnier@ruffinconsultinginc.com](mailto:bonnier@ruffinconsultinginc.com)  
[www.ruffinconsulting.com](http://www.ruffinconsulting.com)



**Bronze Sustaining Member**

5020 Weston Parkway | Suite 200  
Cary, North Carolina 27213

Post Office Box 1929  
Cary, North Carolina 27512-1929

919.677.8900 | 800.622.8843

[www.lawyersmutualinc.com](http://www.lawyersmutualinc.com)



**GOLD SUSTAINING MEMBER**

CourtLogic  
*Search NC Court Records Online*  
Attn: Lee Lloyd/Sarah Price  
P.O. Box 1589  
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526  
[lee@courtlogic.com](mailto:lee@courtlogic.com)  
[www.courtlogic.com](http://www.courtlogic.com)



**CourtLogic**

**COURTLOGIC.COM | 800.792.4339**



North Carolina Paralegal Association Inc.

PO Box 1133

Holly Springs NC 27540

Address Correction Requested