



The REAP Record

Winter 2011 Newsletter

[Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals](#)

Published Quarterly

About REAP

REAP was established in 1981 under the name Redwood Empire Legal Assistants (RELA) as a professional and educational organization for legal assistants and paralegals.

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P.O. Box 143
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Membership

[Membership Information](#)
[Membership Application](#)

It's time to renew your membership for 2011.

**Download a
[membership application](#)
now!**

**REAP
to host
NALA's CLA exam
in May**

**Click [here](#) for details
or go to page 11**

President's Message

By [Trudy McQuiddy](#) REAP President

In many ways, Facebook makes me crazy, but every once in a while I see something posted that resonates. Today it was a quote attributed to Gerald Good posted by a friend from Michigan: "If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily."

At times in my job, I find myself grumbling about dealing with huge document productions, seemingly impossible deadlines, or difficult personalities on the other side of a case. In those moments, it's easy to say "Ugh, I really don't want to be at work today" or "I hate my job." When that irritated little voice starts talking in my head, I try to remember that I am thankful for having a job, one that is interesting and challenging, and that I truly enjoy. There are many recent graduates who would love to have my job, or any job. There are experienced paralegals either out of work or struggling to get by in a less than ideal position, waiting for the right opportunity. Looking at my job from the perspective of thankfulness changes the energy I devote to each task from negative to positive, affecting how I relate to others both personally and professionally.

With the new year, we've each been given a fresh start, an opportunity to turn things around if they are not going in a direction we like. Let's count the things in our lives that we are thankful for.

Personally, I am thankful to have a wonderful and supportive Board of Directors for REAP: Grace De La Torre, Vice President, Kim Davis, Secretary, Ginger Orosco, Treasurer, Duane Ledward, CAPA Primary Representative, Monica Lehre, Student Liaison, Nicole Rosaschi, Marketing Committee Chair, Deborah Cain, ELSA Liaison, Jeff DiCello, Newsletter and Membership Chair, Suzanne Murphy, Education Committee Chair, Joni Boucher, Sonoma County Bar Liaison, Patti Tate, Special Projects Chair.

I am thankful that we have outstanding attorneys in our community willing to give their time to present MCLE courses for our benefit and growth. This year REAP will present programs by attorneys Steve Beckwith (Enforcing Judgments), Joe Piasta (Elder Law) and Scott Lewis (Employment Law), with other programs still under development. I am thankful for the support each of you gives to REAP and to our profession. I wish each of you a happy, thankful and prosperous new year.



CAPA Corner

By [Trudy McQuiddy](#)

Trudy, a litigation paralegal at [Senneff, Freeman & Bluestone, LLP](#), is REAP's President and CAPA Secondary Representative.

We're just 5 months away from the long anticipated 2011 CAPA Conference at Fisherman's Wharf in beautiful San Francisco. Check out some of the highlights:

- **5 Hours of MCLE Credit possible in 1 day!** And don't forget that one of those credits is the ever elusive ETHICS MCLE! That's only \$23 per MCLE Credit for members who register before April 30th!
- **Discover great techniques in our Technology Track.** Legal professionals will show you how to best utilize **Adobe** and **Excel** in your daily practice, and experts will help you avoid common **Calendaring** pitfalls and keep you up to date on the changing landscape of **eDiscovery**.
- **Learn something new in our Mixed Bag Track.** In this track, you will learn about the latest changes in **Corporate** law, interesting information on the **Social Security Disability** System, how to select a solid **Trademark**, and the ins and outs of employment-based **Immigration** petitions and applications.
- **Enhance your professional knowledge in our Professionalism Track.** Experts and legal professionals will help you learn to polish your **Resume**, give you tips and tricks to **Writing**, tell you about **Certifications** available to paralegals, and what **Business & Professions Code § 6450** means to you.
- **Networking, Networking, Networking!** In today's economy, you cannot underestimate the power of your professional network. Supercharge yours by making contacts from across the State on a personal level not afforded by internet networking sites. Nothing beats an old-fashioned handshake.
- **Celebrate California Paralegal Day with Paralegals from across the State!** Did you know that you have a day of your own, designated by the Governor? Indeed, it coincides each year with the CAPA Conference, and there's no better way to celebrate than with your colleagues near and far.
- **Raffle prizes!** Take advantage of any of the wonderful free Exhibitor raffle prizes offered by our on-site legal services providers, or see your CAPA Representatives and buy a ticket for a chance to win one of several wonderful prizes provided by other CAPA affiliates. Tickets are only \$1 each.

Did you know that your membership in REAP automatically makes you a member of CAPA?

CAPA members are entitled to a variety of benefits.

For more information, visit this [link](#).

To sign up today, go to www.caparalegal.org and click the registration link on the left.

If you have any questions regarding CAPA benefits, you can contact me at tmcquiddy@sennefflaw.com, or Duane Ledward, REAP's CAPA Primary Representative at duane.ledward@gmail.com. In addition, please feel free to peruse the [CAPA website](#).



New Laws for 2011

By [Jeff DiCello](#), REAP Record Editor

Here is a sampling of some of the new laws taking effect in California in 2011:

- Santa Rosa Assembly member Noreen Evans has authored a new law which would allow one-day jury trials with eight instead of 12 jurors if both sides agree.
- Possession of an ounce or less of marijuana will now be an infraction instead of a misdemeanor. The fine is still \$100, but there is no jail time and the conviction is treated like a traffic ticket for criminal record purposes. Because no jail time is possible, there is no right to a jury trial nor a court appointed attorney.
- California will begin releasing gravely or terminally ill state prison inmates on medical parole.
- Be on the lookout for Blue Alerts on those highway signs telling you a police officer is down and the suspect is still on the loose. This is similar to our "AMBER Alert" and the notice will appear on the same signs that display the Amber alerts. I don't imagine there will be a need for this kind of alert that often.
- It will be a crime to conduct a malicious, credible impersonation via an online social media site, email or website which results in the harming, intimidating, threatening or defrauding of another person. A violation of Penal Code, § 528.5 will punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine of \$1,000.
- California nursing homes will now be required to post federal ratings (1 to 5 stars) of their facilities.
- It is now a misdemeanor to impersonate someone if the intention is to deceive or injure another person.
- Holders of first deed mortgages will be prevented from obtaining deficiency judgments against the sellers in short sales of homes that are "under water." A lender who approves a sale for less than what is owed must accept the sales proceeds as full payment.
- Parents of children (K-8) are charged with a misdemeanor if the child misses 10% or more of the school year without an excuse. The new law carries a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to a year in county jail.
- In cases where a caregiver causes serious injury (such as a coma or paralysis) they will now be prosecuted for punishment which can now include life in prison. The new California law includes relatives and non-relatives.
- California businesses with 15 or more employees must provide 30 days paid leave for workers who donate organs and five days for those who give bone marrow.
- Bakeries must stop using trans fats their products this year.



Paralegal Wins Freedom After 15 Years in Prison

By [Jeff DiCello](#), REAP Record Editor

Last June, Jabbar Collins walked out of prison a free man after serving 15 years in state prison for a murder many now believe he did not commit.

Collins was convicted in 1994 at the age of 22 of the murder of Rabbi Abraham Pollack in New York City. At the time, Collins was called an “animal,” undeserving of pity by the victim’s distraught family. Pollack had been shot six times and was robbed while collecting rents from tenants of an apartment building he owned.

In prison, Collins recalls thinking that “the only way you’re going to get out is to become your own lawyer.” And so, that is precisely what he set out to do. Collins, who never completed high school, spent hours in the prison law library researching the law. Over the years, Collins filed numerous requests for documents as well as appeals, doing all the research and drafting himself. For almost eight years Collins diligently pursued his freedom but met with no success.

At his trial, Adrian Diaz had testified that he had seen Collins tuck a gun into his waistband after the murder of Mr. Pollack.

With a little help from his mother and some telephone technology, Collins phoned Diaz pretending to be a prosecution investigator who needed to reconstruct documents related to the Collins case that had been destroyed in the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001. Diaz fell for the ruse and admitted to Collins that in exchange for his testimony against Collins in his 1994 trial, prosecutors agreed not to prosecute Diaz for a probation violation. This fact was never disclosed to Collins’ defense attorneys, who could have cross-examined Diaz and potentially impeached his credibility in front of the jury.

Collins’ investigation led him to another witness, Edwin Oliva, who had originally told the police that Collins had confessed to murdering Rabbi Pollack. Oliva admitted to Collins that detectives at the time of the murder had threatened to charge him as an accessory, and then had the drug-addled Oliva sign a statement implicating Collins in the murder. Oliva also got a sweetheart deal from prosecutors in a felony case he was facing at the time.

Collins also discovered other anomalies in his case, one involving a 911 call reporting the murder. The caller, who the prosecution claimed, called 911 to report Pollack’s death, was a hardcore drug user who later identified Collins at trial. When the caller tried to recant prior to testifying, the prosecutor threatened to hit the man on the head with a table. The D.A. also threatened the man and locked up for a week as a material witness until he agreed to testify. The witnesses’ voice in court did not match the voice on the 911 call.



Jabbar Collins

But by 2005, after 10 years of working up his case on his own, Collins consulted Joel Rudin, a noted civil rights attorney, who filed an appeal in state court.

Initially, Collins’ ruse with witness Diaz backfired when this appeal was dismissed by the state court judge who excoriated Collins for his use of the ruse with Diaz.

Collins had better luck in federal court, when in June of 2010, a federal judge agreed that

Continued on next page

Paralegal Wins Freedom

Continued from previous page

prosecutors had withheld potentially exculpatory evidence from Collins' defense, granted his habeas corpus petition, vacated his conviction and barred prosecutors from retrying the case.

Collins' story has a unique ending. The former inmate, now 38, works as a paralegal and legal analyst in attorney [Rudin's New York office](#). Collins even has his own [profile page](#) on the firm website. The dynamic duo plan to sue the city and the state for compensation for Collins' tainted conviction.



REAP Quarterly Membership Report

It's time to renew your membership for 2011. Download a [membership application](#) now!

REAP welcomes the following new and returning members this quarter. In no particular order, they are:

Kim Davis	Meghan M. Hunt	Nancy E. Flor	Patricia Lawrence-Dietz
Jeff DiCello	Ann Pardini Ruprecht	Trudy McQuiddy	Jennie N. Madden
Deanna Hopper	Lacy Ludlow	Gailyn McGrath Cossey	Selana Trippo
Daisy Ruvalcaba-Lopez	Sandra Lugo	Dani Gray	Valerie A. Sizemore
Chelsea Treis	Joye Steele	Victoria Litchfield	Melissa Rangel
Cathy Kisler Caravantes	Vanessa Yassine	Donna Cipplin	

REAP Membership Information

REAP membership application: [Click Here](#)

Voting Member

(Dues: \$42.00 per year)

Voting members are defined as qualified paralegals by education or valid declaration.

Associate/Non-Voting Member

(Dues: \$30.00 per year)

Associate/non-voting members are defined as attorneys or paralegal educators.

Student Member/Non-Voting Member

(Dues: \$20.00 per year)

Student/non-voting members are defined as current paralegal students.

Sustaining/Non-Voting Member

(Dues \$50.00 per year)

Sustaining/non-voting members are defined as individuals, law firms and companies that endorse and promote the paralegal profession.



2010 Year in Review: Top 10 Events That Were Good for Paralegals

By Vicki Voisin

1. Florida Bar Appoints Special Committee to Study Mandatory Paralegal Regulation

Florida could become the first state to mandate paralegal certification, requiring anyone working as a paralegal to pass a test and meet educational and continuing education requirements. While more than 3,000 Floridians have obtained voluntary certification as paralegals through a program begun by The Florida Bar in 2008, many paralegals are pushing for a mandatory program. The Bar has created a nine-member Special Committee to Study Mandatory Paralegal Regulation which is comprised of 3 attorneys, 3 paralegals and 3 members of The Bar's board of governors. (Source: <http://www.floridabar.org/>)

2. NALA Announces CP Exam Computer Based Testing

NALA...The Association for Legal Assistants and Paralegals made great strides with its voluntary certification program in 2010.

The "The Certified Paralegal Examination transitioned from a paper-and-pencil test to computer-based testing with plans to offer it each day in September, January and May, beginning September 2010. There are no changes in the examination eligibility requirements or the exam application fees. NALA will utilize the ACT Testing Center network, providing over 200 testing locations. Examinees may set their own testing times and days in each testing window. (Source: <http://nala.org/>)

3. Paralegal Gateway Unveils Updated and Improved Website

The Paralegal Gateway website took a brief hiatus in 2010 while founder, Jeannie Johnston, REAP Record – Winter 2011

performed a cool face lift and made some incredible improvements. She did a bang-up job!

Known as *'the'* site for Paralegals, the new site featured integrated social networking, a deadline and filing calculator, the ability to search for legal services and a Career Center that lists available positions. Freelance Paralegals were also included, with members having the ability to post their service listings at no cost. There are also sections for Canadian Paralegals, Paralegal Students, Military Paralegals, an Association and Schools listing, legal information by state, and much more! (Source: <http://paralegalgateway.com/>)

4. What's PDF/A? And Why Are Federal Courts Requiring You to File in This Format

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts announced a prospective change to the technical filing standard associated with its Case Management / Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system. A move to the new more-controlled PDF/A standard is necessary to enhance CM/ECF security and to improve the archiving and preservation of case-related documents. PDF/A is the standard for long-term archival storage of PDFs. (Source: [Federal Courts Moving to Requiring PDF/A for Filings](#), a blog post by Rick Borstein)

5. NALA Offers 17 Advanced Certified Paralegal Credentials

In 2010, NALA's increased the number of Advanced Certified Paralegal opportunities to credentialing in 17 areas, as well as the opportunity to be a Personal Injury ACP. The Advanced Paralegal Certification Program for Personal Injury paralegals offers a variety of certifications to paralegals based on practice areas. Paralegals may earn multiple certifications in practice areas. If a Certified Paralegal (CP) successfully completes the Core Course and all 8 practice area courses, the paralegal is eligible for the ACP Personal Injury Credential. (Source: <http://nala.org/>)

6. Employment of Paralegals and Legal Assistants Projected to Grow 28% between 2008 and 2018.

The US Bureau of Labor statistics says that employment of paralegals and legal assistants is projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations as employers try to reduce costs and increase the availability and efficiency of legal services by hiring paralegals to perform tasks once done by lawyers.

Demand for paralegals also is expected to grow as an expanding population increasingly requires legal services, especially in areas such as intellectual property, healthcare, international law, elder issues, criminal law, and environmental law. Competition for jobs is expected to continue as many people seek to go into this profession; experienced, formally trained paralegals should have the best employment opportunities.

(Source:

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/pdf/ocos114.pdf>)

7. "What Do Attorneys Wish Their Paralegals Knew" Goes Viral on the Internet!

Kim Walker, a senior litigation paralegal with the Philadelphia law firm of Berger & Montague, P.C., and also a freelance author and blogger at [Paralegal Pie](#), wrote "**What Attorneys Wish Their Paralegals Knew**" for the Legal Intelligencer. This generated a lot of buzz on the Internet, particularly at the Paralegal Gateway forum.

Kim polled attorneys at 3 Philadelphia firms, asking a simple question: "What do you wish your paralegal knew?" You can read the article here: <http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1202472944721>

Kim was the December guest on *The Paralegal Voice* which I co-host with Lynne DeVenny. We discussed how paralegals can improve their legal technology skills, maintain the highest level of professionalism in the office, and communicate more effectively with their supervising attorneys. We also shared what we wish attorneys knew, emphasizing how attorneys can better utilize

paralegals in the practice of law. To listen to the replay, [follow this link](#).

8. New Case on Paralegal Fees from the District Court of Appeal of Florida, First District

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Edge Family Chiropractic, (No. 1D10-0565, June 25, 2010) addressed the question of the reimbursement of paralegal fees in attorney fee awards.

The court's opinion cited cases in the United States Supreme Court in which NALA filed an amicus brief, *Missouri v. Jenkins*, and *Richlin Security Service Co. v. Chertoff*. In both cases, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the term "attorney's fees" includes paralegal services and that the paralegal fees should be reimbursed at market rates. The Florida opinion cites how attorney use of paralegals encourages cost-effective delivery of legal services and reduces the cost of litigation. To read the full opinion, [follow this link](#).

9. Dupont Legal Honored by Inside Counsel as an Innovator in Corporate Legal Departments

The Dupont Company is included in Inside Counsel's top 10 people/entities who exemplify the development of innovative solutions that have lunched the legal department to a higher level.

Dupont Legal's innovation involves the utilization of paralegals as a greater resource across multiple disciplines. The result was *The Dupont Legal Model* and the *DuPont Paralegal Utilization Model*. The company has several practice groups, such as immigration and bankruptcy, where the paralegal—under the supervision of an attorney—is doing all this work.

Paralegal Manager *Marybeth Davies* spearheaded this program, as well as the creation of "Dollars and Sense of Paralegal Utilization: The DuPont Paralegal Utilization Model," a publication that offers best practices for using paralegals to their

fullest potential. It's available for purchase at <http://www.dupontlegalmodel.com/>.

10. NALA Releases the 2010 National Utilization/Compensation Survey ...and It's Free!

Approximately every 2 years since 1986, NALA has conducted a national survey of paralegals. With over 20 years of reports, this regular "look" at the paralegal profession has produced some interesting and valuable data. The findings are divided into 4 sections: participant background; employers and paralegal duties and responsibilities; billing rates; and compensation levels.

The 2010 survey included 1451 responses averaging 20 years of legal experience from a diverse geographical area. 5% of the respondents were males; 95% are females. The average age of survey participants is 46.

The survey presents information concerning the work environment, duties and responsibilities, billing rates and compensation levels of paralegals. It also includes a review of current findings in comparison with findings of previous surveys. Economic data is presented in terms of such factors as size of city, size of firm, educational backgrounds, years of experience, and specialty area of practice. Anyone can access the survey at <http://nala.org/survey.aspx>.

About the Author:

Vicki Voisin, "The Paralegal Mentor," delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by achieving goals and determining the direction they will take their careers.

Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of continuing education to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She publishes a bi-weekly e-zine titled [Strategies for Paralegals Seeking Excellence](#).

Visit Vicki's website at:

<http://www.paralegalmentor.com>

CCP 12c: Are You Ready?

On January 1st Section 12c was added to the California Code of Civil Procedure. Section 12c eliminates an ambiguity in calculating the last day to serve hearing-related documents.

All practitioners will need to calendar in accordance with the new section. In jurisdictions where hearing dates are available on short notice, however, practitioners must be particularly careful to avoid a rather dangerous pitfall which could lead to malpractice.

This [article](#) by attorney Julie Goren explains the ambiguity and the Section 12c solution, warns about the pitfall, and suggests ways to avoid its consequences. It is must reading for any paralegal who does calendaring.



Empire Legal Student Association News

By [Deborah Cain](#), ELSA Representative to the REAP Board

Editor's Note: [Empire College's paralegal program](#), is the home of Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA), a student chapter of [REAP](#).

Happy New Year from Empire Legal Student Association! Since the last REAP newsletter, ELSA celebrated its hard work by hosting a BINGO fundraiser night on October 8, 2010 at Empire College. After hours of fun and countless bingo games with exciting prizes, we managed to raise \$2,400!! The fundraiser's proceeds

benefited many worthy causes, including The Children's Village of Sonoma County, an organization dedicated to keeping foster kids with their siblings; and a scholarship program for ELSA members to address the financial, academic, and networking needs of our membership. Empire paralegal students had the opportunity to take on leadership roles through organizing different committees to ensure a successful event. The season of giving did not stop there: ELSA and Empire later held another fundraiser and donated the funds raised to the Boys and Girls Club of Rohnert Park.

In the last couple of months, we have seen many new faces in our bi-weekly meetings as a new round of paralegal students has begun their courses at Empire College. In late December, we held elections to introduce a new set of officers to replace the outgoing Deanna Martin (President), Danielle Beasley (Vice-President), Cesar Corona (Secretary), and Brenda Cunningham (Treasurer). In addition to demonstrating stellar leadership skills throughout the last six months, the outgoing officers have successfully encouraged our members to participate in many events which have Sonoma County. In addition, through their effort and hard work, ELSA has been able to raise funds to provide financial support for its new and continuing students to attend meetings and conferences. The work done by our outgoing officers has laid a solid foundation for our newly-elected officers: Heather Hartsock (President), Dani Gray (Vice-President), Meghan Murphy (Secretary), and Valerie Sizemore (Treasurer). We look forward to their great work and efforts for ELSA in 2011!

As with any organization, its goal is to see its membership grow, provide support for its members, and encourage participation in its activities. Being a member of REAP allows ELSA's members to build relationships with colleagues, provides a means of support within the companies and law firms at which its members work, offers many opportunities for its members to meet mandatory continuing legal education requirements; and to learn about the latest trends in the paralegal field.

For the past six months, ELSA has been led by a group of individuals who have tried to show why it is important for its members to attend the biweekly meetings and participate in the group's events.

Below, some of the officers of ELSA reflect on what they have accomplished personally and professionally as they represented ELSA during the past six months.

Hopefully, reading their words will inspire you to reflect on how you can contribute to ELSA, as well as how you may begin or continue to support REAP's goals. Therefore, consider meeting new people at REAP's [monthly downtown luncheon](#), or by attending the next REAP general membership meeting. By supporting REAP, you are also supporting fellow paralegals, yourself and your career.

ELSA board members, from left to right, Deanna Martin (President) Danielle Beasley (Vice-President), Brenda Cunningham (Treasurer) and Deborah Cain (REAP Liaison).



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Outgoing President, Deanna Martin:

“Being the president of the Empire Legal Student Association (ELSA) afforded me more opportunities for growth than I initially anticipated. Beyond making great friends, I have established a network for my future career as a paralegal. Becoming ELSA's president forced me to step outside of my comfort zone; I have become a better public speaker, organized multiple fundraisers,

proved to myself there is time if I make it, and felt the satisfaction of being involved in something bigger than myself. I am grateful I had the opportunity to serve my classmates and our legal program, and that I learned more about myself along the way.”

Outgoing Vice-President, Danielle Beasley:

“I have been involved with Empire Legal Student Association since 2009 and I have recently completed my term as the Vice President. ELSA has provided me with numerous opportunities that I would not have had outside the group. Because I believe we are all connected to the community in Sonoma County and not confined to the four walls of a classroom, I chose to play a major role in the organization of the annual Bingo Fundraiser to raise money for Children’s Village and student scholarships, an experience which left me confident that I can organize fundraisers in the future. I also took part in organizing mini-fundraisers on campus to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Rohnert Park and CASA. ELSA has also given me tools to further my leadership skills. I supported the President of ELSA, completed tasks in a timely manner, made decisions, assisted with the writing of the by-laws, and aided the student group whenever possible. This organization also led me to meet new people and strengthen friendships I had already made. Overall, ELSA gave me a new perspective of learning new tools to increase my professional skills, as well as how to make a difference within my community.”

Outgoing Treasurer, Brenda Cunningham:

“ELSA is a wonderful opportunity for Empire paralegal students to explore what it means to be a part of the legal community. Being a member of an organization with people who share common goals and give back to the community is very rewarding. ELSA has provided me with opportunities to meet and work with fellow students, staff, as well as outreach into the community. This is the first time I have ever been a treasurer for a club and I discovered how much I enjoy bringing order to the system, problem solving, and organizing the accounts. I value being a member of ELSA. ELSA has reminded me that if you want to see something succeed, you need to contribute.



Continuing Legal Education

By [Jeff DiCello](#), REAP Record Editor

As most paralegals know, [Bus. & Prof. Code sec. 6470\(d\)](#) requires that paralegals complete mandatory continuing legal education to maintain their status as paralegals.

Specifically, every two years, paralegals must complete four hours of ethics and four hours in general or specialized law. Paralegals must certify completion of these educational requirements to their supervising attorney, and are responsible for maintaining their own records in this regard.

It is not always easy to maintain these educational requirements. Many paralegals lament that their employers do not pay for these required courses. It is also sometimes difficult to find un-person CLE outside of major metropolitan areas. While these concerns are understandable, they are not valid excuses.

Employers can help in this regard by paying for paralegal CLE. The emergence of online CLE can make it easier to acquire one's CLE credits. To keep track of your CLE, use this [log](#). The log can also be used to certify to your employer that you are in compliance with CLE requirements. The [Sonoma County Bar](#)

[Association](#) sponsors several CLE seminars each year. For more information on these upcoming seminars, see our [calendar](#).



Spotlight on Local MCLE & Other Educational Opportunities

Below is a list of some REAP-sponsored MCLE opportunities coming up this quarter. Other opportunities can be found on the legal events [calendar](#), below.

Title	Date/Time	Location
REAP Seminar on Enforcing Judgments w/ Steve Beckwith	Feb. 16, 2011 Time: TBA	Empire College , Room 211 3035 Cleveland Ave. , Santa Rosa
REAP Elder Law Seminar with Joe Piasta	Mar. 15, 2011 Time: TBA	To Be Determined



REAP to Host CLA Exam in May

The NALA CLA Exam will be administered at Empire College on Friday, May 13, 2011 and Saturday, May 14, 2011.

REAP is working to put together a workshop for those

interested in taking the CLA Exam, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011 at Empire College.

The workshop will be taught by Grace De La Torre, CLA and Monica Lehre, CP. For information on the requirements for obtaining the CLA/CP designation, please visit the NALA website at www.nala.org.

Details on the workshop are being worked out and an e-mail will be sent to all members in the very near future with registration information.

We encourage all of our members to take this opportunity to distinguish yourself among your peers by becoming a CLA/CP. If you would like further information, please contact Grace DeLaTorre at 292-7946 or gdelatorre@sbcglobal.net.

REAP Board, Mentors & Committee Contact Info

REAP Board Members

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Area of Law Mentors & REAP Committees

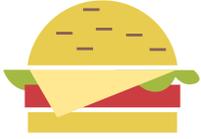
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REAP/Legal Community Event Calendar

REAP encourages its members to attend its own educational seminars and those sponsored by the Sonoma County Bar Association (SCBA). For more information on upcoming REAP events (in red below), contact REAP's educational committee [Monica Lehre](#). For information on REAP and SCBA seminars, you can refer to our legal event calendar, below. For more information about any event held at or sponsored by the Sonoma County Bar Association, please call 542-1190 or visit their [website](#).

Event	Date/Time	Location
Civil Litigation and Trial Update 2010 Year-in-Review	Jan. 19, 2011/3:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Fountaingrove Inn, Hotel & Conference Center 101 Fountaingrove Parkway Santa Rosa
Recent Developments in Labor and Employment Law	Jan. 27, 2011/5:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
New Laws and Forms for 2011 (Civil & Probate)	Jan. 28, 2011/11:45 am – 1:30 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
Family Law New Forms & New Law for 2011	Feb. 3, 2011/3:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Fountaingrove Inn, Hotel & Conference Center 101 Fountaingrove Parkway Santa Rosa
Basic Trust Administration	Feb. 7, 2011/11:45 am – 2:00 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
Prepare Your Business to be Sued	Feb. 11, 2011/11:45 am – 1:30 pm	Fountaingrove Inn, Hotel & Conference Center 101 Fountaingrove Parkway Santa Rosa
REAP Seminar on Enforcing Judgments w/ Steve Beckwith	Feb. 16, 2011/Time TBA	Empire College , Room 211 3035 Cleveland Ave. , Santa Rosa
The Cutting Edge of Mediation	Feb. 25, 2011/1:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
CLA Workshop	Feb. 26, 2011/Time TBA	Empire College , Room TBA 3035 Cleveland Ave. , Santa Rosa
REAP Elder Law Seminar w/ Joe Piasta	Mar. 15, 2010/Time TBA	To be determined
Advocating with Technology	Mar. 22, 2011/11:45 am – 1:30 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
Mediating with Elders and Adult families – Trust and Estate Disputes and More	Mar. 23, 2011/3:45 pm-6:00 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
Unlawful Detainers	April 20, 2011/11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Sonoma Co. Bar Association 37 Old Courthouse Sq. Santa Rosa
The Witness to Guantanamo Project	April 28, 2011/11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Fountaingrove Inn, Hotel & Conference Center 101 Fountaingrove Parkway Santa Rosa



Monthly Paralegal Lunches

Each month paralegals working in or near downtown Santa Rosa area meet informally for lunch. You do not have to be a REAP member to attend. These informal lunches are a great way to meet other members who work near you.

When: Normally the second Tuesday of each month.

Time: Noon to 1:00 PM. We are in and out in one hour so you can get back to work on time.

Where: At a restaurant in the downtown Santa Rosa area. E-mail reminders with the exact location are sent out a few days before the event.

How Much Does It Cost? There's no fixed cost; each member pays his/her own check and decides what to order and spend.

**It's time to renew
your
membership
for 2011.**

**Download a
[membership application](#)
now!**