

PERSPECTIVE

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Spring 2022 Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kerry A. Mackey, CP

HAPPY SPRING my fellow paralegals!!! Our current term is coming to an end next month but before it does we have a lot to celebrate! **PANJ** has had great success this term with our monthly webinars.

During the last two months, **PANJ** had a representative from the Alzheimer's Association and an attorney from Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, P.C. to provide us with a two-part presentation regarding Legal and Financial Planning for Elders. We are hoping to have them back for a future webinar regarding another informative topic.

PANJ will be celebrating our 40th anniversary on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at Delicious Heights in Basking Ridge. The party will start at 6:00 p.m. We will also have a swearing-in ceremony for our Executive Board at this event. Registration will be limited so please be sure to register early once the invitations go out.

PANJ is VERY excited to announce that we will be having our September 2022 meeting in person!!! We will be holding an Ethics dinner meeting at Porzio Bromberg & Newman, P.C. in Morristown. The details of which will be shared in late August. We miss seeing everyone and hope you can join us for this dinner meeting.

PANJ is in the process of planning its 2022-2023 term. Please see our Save the Date Notice with this newsletter for our currently scheduled meetings. Our hope is to have in-person dinner meetings in the fall. Then during the winter months we will host webinars. Once the weather warms up we will go back to having in-person dinner meetings. We miss seeing everyone



and we want everyone to have the opportunity to network and meet new people.

We are working on some new topics that some of our members have suggested. As always, if there is a topic that you would like to learn more about please let me know. I will do the research and find a guest speaker to discuss the topic you are interested in learning more about.

Finally, the Association is open to suggestions for improvement. **PANJ** seeks to promote regulated high-level educational standards and uniform practice guidelines for paralegals throughout New Jersey. **PANJ** also provides helpful resources to new and experienced paralegals and promotes the education of the public for the advancement and improvement of the profession.

What are ways the Association can further serve its members and the paralegal profession? All suggestions are welcome! Send ideas and comments to Info@NJPara.org.

If you wish to contribute to upcoming editions of Perspective, please submit your pieces for review to Info@NJPara.org.

If you know a vendor who may be interested in advertising their product/service in the Perspective or at an upcoming webinar meeting, have the vendor contact Info@NJPara.org.

DISCLAIMER: The *Perspective* is a newsletter designed to report news and/or opinions of interest to PANJ members. The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author, not the *Perspective* Editor nor the PANJ Executive Board. Publication herein does not imply endorsement in any manner. No information contained herein is intended nor should it be construed as legal advice. All articles presented herein are with permission of the author. Inclusion and editing of material is at the sole discretion of the Editor.



**SAVE THE DATES!
UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS**

September 2022

Guest Speaker: Attorney from Porzio
Bromberg & Newman, P.C.

Topic: Ethics

Date: TBD

Location: Porzio Bromberg & Newman, P.C.

Friday, October 14, 2022

2022 NJ PARALEGAL CONVENTION

www.njparalegalconvention.com

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Guest Speaker: Matthew C. Mills, Esq. of
Price, Meese, Shulman & D'Arminio, P.C.

Topic: Surrogate Court

Location: TBD

www.NJPara.org



SAVE THE DATE

WHEN: OCTOBER 14, 2022

WHERE: Imperia on Easton
1714 Easton Avenue
Somerset, New Jersey

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to an in-person Convention! Spend the day visiting with our vendors, interacting with our speakers and networking with other paralegals. More details to follow!

www.NJParalegalConvention.com



The Paralegal Association of New Jersey made a charitable donation in the amount of \$500.00 to the Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance and comfort to breast cancer patients and their families. Receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer is daunting in itself, but when combined with the economic hardships that many patients encounter due to out-of-pocket expenses, income loss, or lack of adequate insurance, it can create a negative impact on a patient's ability to place emphasis on regaining their health. The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation seeks to alleviate some of these burdens, providing financial support directly to breast cancer patients who are encountering financial setbacks, and empowers patients with hope and encouragement as they journey through their treatment and recovery process. The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation is a local foundation with a national reach! PANJ was proud to support this foundation. For more information regarding The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation visit: christinaswalshbcf.org.



**THE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS!**

Jessica Biczak

Paul J. Bradley

Barbara Bunge

Connell Foley, LLP

Sebastian Godínez

Angela Grossmann

Jillian Jencsik

Kenny Passaro

Stacie Razzetti

Deborah C. Regan

Pina Zabala

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT AN UPCOMING
EVENT!**

New Jersey Notary

“Five Ways to Use the Recent NJ Law Update to Protect the Public and Yourself”

February 18, 2022 – Paralegal Association of New Jersey Webinar Meeting

Presented by Nicola Jackson, National Notary Association

Written by Diane H. Wolfe, Certified Paralegal

As a Notary in the State of New Jersey, the topic for the February meeting was very informative regarding the new rules that became effective in New Jersey on October 21, 2021. It applies to all persons, new applicants or renewal applicants, who wish to become or remain a Notary in the State of New Jersey. Below is a list of the changes that have been implemented:

1. **New Notary Application Procedures** – Applications will need to be submitted electronically to the State Treasure. There is a \$25 fee that needs to accompany each application. Once commissioned, you must take your oath of office within 3 months of receiving commission. Finally, you must be a legal resident of New Jersey or work in New Jersey to be a New Jersey Notary.
2. **Notary Stamp** – Notary Stamps are now required. If you have an embosser, it must be photographically reproducible. The following three elements are **required** to be on your official stamp:
 - a. Name of Notary;
 - b. “Notary Public, State of New Jersey” must be on the stamp; and
 - c. Commission expiration date.

Notaries must keep their stamps in a secure area and not allow anyone else to use them. Notary stamps belong to the Notary not to an employer. If a stamp is lost or stolen, you must report it to the State Treasurer within 10 days.

3. **Journal Requirements** - A Notary is required to keep a journal, tangible or electronic format, for all notarial acts. Tangible formats must be permanent, bound register with consecutively numbered lines and pages. Electronic format must be permanent, tamper-evident and comply with the rules. Both must be kept in a secured area.
4. **New Notary Acts** –
 - a. A Notary can:
 - i. Certify copies of documents and depositions;
 - ii. Certify papered-out electronic records; and
 - iii. Witnessing or attesting a signature.
 - b. Required Notarial certificate language (includes short-form certificates):
 - i. Acknowledgement in an individual capacity;
 - ii. Acknowledgement in a representative capacity;
 - iii. Verification on oath or affirmation/Jurat;
 - iv. Signature witnessing or attestation (new);
 - v. Copy certification (new); and
 - vi. Certificate for notarial act for a remotely located individual must indicate the notarial act was performed using communication technology (this includes tangible records/RIN(remote inked signed)).

5. **New and Renewing Applicants Education Required (effective July 22, 2022)** New and renewing applicants will have to acknowledge reading the Notary Public Manual, take an education course and pass an exam before being commissioned as a Notary. How this will be implemented, online or in person, is still being discussed. Stay tuned for updates.

For additional information, the New Jersey website is <https://www.njportal.com/dor/notary> or the National Notary their website is <https://www.nationalnotary.org>.



I am a Certified Paralegal in the Collections Department of Einhorn, Barbarito, Frost & Botwinick, PC in Denville, New Jersey. I have worked in this firm over 4 years. Before moving to Collections at the firm, I worked in the Estate and Trusts department. Prior to working for Einhorn Barbarito, I was the Paralegal at the Law Firm of Thomas M. Wolfe, LLC, Metuchen, New Jersey for 10 years. As a sole practitioner, his practice consisted of Estates and Trusts, Elder law and Real Estate. I have been a member of PANJ since 2018 and have recently been elected to the Board as Trustee. I am also involved in the NJ Paralegal Convention where I am the Treasurer.



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AFFILIATES TOWN HALL MEETING

On February 22, 2022, NALA hosted a Town Hall meeting for its Affiliates. Bridget M. Stuhr, ACP, Affiliates Director, moderated the meeting. Sharon Jones ACP, Affiliates Secretary; Patrice Pratt, Manager of Member Engagement and Retention; and Bonnie Davis all of NALA were also in attendance.

Bridget stressed that NALA was available in any way for its Affiliates and always welcomes comments and suggestions from its Affiliates.

Several people in attendance had suggestions that Bridget was very receptive to. While the suggestions related directly to NALA Liaisons, and an Affiliate's Board, those suggestions will have a trickle down effect and will also benefit PANJ's members.

Here some of the meeting's highlights:

Did you know NALA has a YouTube channel? Check it out. Bridget said they are starting to add more content.

At the NALA Expo and Conference each year, the Affiliate Exchange is an opportunity for an Affiliate to present on a topic of their choice, generally related to operating an Association. Exchanges cover topics such as membership, hosting seminars and conducting study groups. NALA received many applications this year but can choose only one for the Conference. In the future, NALA will likely be posting the Exchanges on their YouTube channel. Posting Exchanges on YouTube will enable NALA to share more Exchanges.

Also related to YouTube, NALA will be posting the Affiliates Annual Meeting as well which takes place at Conference.

NALA wants to grow their student membership nationally and at the local level so they will be making an concrete effort to reach out to educators to develop that plan.

NALA EXPO AND CONFERENCE

The Expo and Conference will take place on July 14 to 16, 2022 at the JW Marriott in Scottsdale, AZ. It's a hybrid conference this year and attendees will be able to attend virtually or in person. Visit NALA's website for details: <https://nala.org/education-5/nala-conference-expo-2/>

PRESIDENT ELECT

Debra Oliver, ACP, was recently elected by the Board for the 2022-2023 term



Christine A. Principe, is a Certified Paralegal. She has been a paralegal for over 30 years assisting attorneys in a variety of practice areas including commercial litigation, mortgage and tax lien foreclosures, and estate administration. Currently, she is in the complex commercial litigation department at Sills Cummis & Gross, P.C. Christine is a PANJ Board Member and NALA Liaison. She is also a Board Member of NJ Paralegal Convention. Christine can be reached at: NALALiaison@NJPara.org or at cprincipe@sillscummis.com.



The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network aka “PanCAN” is the 1st organization dedicated to fighting pancreatic cancer in a comprehensive way and has done so for more than two decades. Leading the fight to, “Wage Hope”, PanCAN raises over \$80 million dollars annually to improve the lives of everyone impacted by pancreatic cancer by advancing scientific research, building community, sharing knowledge, and advocating for patients. In 2022, the 5-year survival rate increased to 11%. By disrupting the traditional pancreatic cancer clinical trial system, PanCAN is working for a 20% survival rate by 2030.

On April 30, 2022, PanCAN’s PurpleStride USA will be the 1st time in history that 59 PanCAN PurpleStride events will happen on the same day in an effort to raise awareness. “One Nation. One Goal. One Big Day.” Locally, PANJ Vice President, Sarah Robinson and Treasurer, Carol Snyder, participated in PanCAN PurpleStride New Jersey 2022 which took place at the Mack-Cali Business Campus. Both have personally lost loved ones to pancreatic cancer and have participated in the annual event since 2016. PANJ was proud to donate to the organization earlier this year as well.

For more information regarding PanCAN, or if you know anyone recently diagnosed or living with pancreatic cancer, visit PanCAN.org to learn more about the disease, diagnosis, treatment options and/or to speak with a knowledgeable, compassionate case manager—free of charge—thanks to generous donors and fundraising.



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NETWORKING 101

By: Cynthia N. Richardson

Why Network?

Networking, when done intentionally, can be a positive resource to a student starting out in the Paralegal field. Merriam-Webster defines networking as the cultivation of productive relationships for employment and business (Ref). Networking gives you access to individuals with working knowledge of your field. This can give the student a better understanding of their studies and field of interest. This is useful especially if you are overwhelmed while attending school and juggling the responsibilities of family and work. If done successfully, networking can open the door to being mentored. A mentor is an individual who can guide you by sharing their successes and tribulations while keeping you abreast of the changes in the profession. Mentoring is more beneficial than the advising often provided by the professors. For example professors, unless previously paralegals, will only be able to provide information based on what they require from their staff or from an academic standpoint. However, finding a mentor, who is or was a paralegal, can provide support, as well as, give an insider's view of different areas of law. This in turn can help guide your interests over an extended period of time.

What is/Why PANJ?

The Paralegal Association of New Jersey (PANJ) was established in 1982 and is dedicated to furthering the paralegal profession in NJ. In 2017, I joined the association as a paralegal student. When I think of the successful people in my life, I noticed that they are a part of and are active participants in professional organizations related to their field. As a member of PANJ, there are a plethora of benefits to take advantage of such as participating in member meetings, conventions, and committees. Member meetings occur monthly. A presenter shares different topics designed to keep students and paralegals abreast of the current trends and new developments in our profession. Additionally, PANJ sponsors the Paralegal Convention where paralegals from all over the state come together to receive a wealth of information and receive continuing legal education (CLE) credits required to maintain their certifications. The presentations are provided by attorneys and other professionals in specific areas of law and the halls are lined by an array of vendors. You have the pleasure of learning alongside paralegals from various sized law firms, from many areas of law and in different stages of their careers. All active members,

including students, are encouraged to work on a committee. The importance of working on a committee is twofold: (1) you are contributing to the continuation and advancement of the organization and (2) you are getting to know your fellow members and ultimately forging bonds. These are just three of the several benefits PANJ offers its members which gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow members, strengthen your resume, and find your niche. Fortunately, I have taken advantage of all of it.

How PANJ has impacted my career?

As I mentioned earlier, the successful men and women I know are involved members in professional organizations. It was important to me to immerse myself in everything related to the field, so I decided to join PANJ on a trial basis. It was a decision that has benefited and served me well to this day. I started out by attending meetings and joined the convention committee shortly after attending my first convention in 2017. I was pleasantly surprised at how the opportunity to serve the association has impacted my life. The committee was understanding of my work and school schedule and made it easy for me to participate and contribute my time and talent. While serving on the committee, I was provided with instant mentors who poured into me by sharing their experiences and tricks of the trade. The exposure to these experienced individuals gave me the guidance and fuel needed to excel in my paralegal career. The members of PANJ became the big sisters and brothers I wanted to make proud by bringing excellence to the field and positive recognition to the association.

PANJ's most recent impact on my life was a recent job reference. Unfortunately, in life there will be individuals who try to downplay the importance of our working roles and organization. However, there are individuals who have benefited from paralegals and have benefited most importantly from employing members of our association. By placing PANJ on my resume, I caught the eye of one of the partners of a law firm. She inquired about my participation with the association, and I told her about my involvement, particularly pointing out my role on the Paralegal Convention committee. Fortunately for me, a paralegal she has a current working relationship with also served alongside me on the committee. This individual remembered me because I was an active member and did not just fade into the background. This resulted in me receiving a favorable reference and consequently being hired.

Final thoughts

Joining a professional organization is the step to take for personal and professional growth. PANJ is the professional association to join if you want a strong support system that impacts your life as you continue to progress through the different stages of your career. From informational member meetings that may cover a topic discussed in your class to access to knowledgeable and well-seasoned paralegals who impart wisdom and push you toward success, PANJ is where you want to be.



Ms. Richardson received a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies at Berkeley College, graduating Summa Cum Laude in Spring 2021. She is a graduate of the Center of American Women and Politics NEW Leadership Program at Rutgers. Ms. Richardson currently works at Phelan, Frantz, Ohlig & Wegbreit LLC, a Real Estate, Estate Planning & Administration practice. She is a member of the Paralegal Association of New Jersey.

Reference:

(Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Networking. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved April 6, 2022 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/networking>

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Finally, please remind your students to visit www.NJPara.org for upcoming events. If your school wishes PANJ to participate in co-sponsorship of an event or plan a Saturday seminar or simply visit your school to meet with your paralegal students, please contact Info@NJPara.org.

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Dealing Effectively with Difficult People

By: Eileen T. O'Grady

We share the planet with nearly 8 billion people. We can't possibly get along well with all of them, but we *can* learn to lower our reactivity to the most difficult people amongst us. Working in complex law firms, you already know how to accurately assess the situation before you. You can't possibly begin a project unless you know precisely what the project is. The same framework applies to dealing with difficult others. We must triage.

Always begin with compassion it is true that people are struggling mightily in these times and sometimes not behaving at their best. Law firms are continuously interacting with people that are often in highly distressed states. We can never know what another person is going through so it is helpful to always begin a difficult interaction with kindness and compassion. Many of us have been conditioned to avoid conflict and difficult conversations and we respond by one of three toxic ways; attack, avoid or accommodate. Practicing compassion will greatly lower your stress response and reduce your reactivity. Once a pattern emerges, however it is time to behave differently, more effectively. When we get angry, we can either engage in constructive or destructive anger. The following triage system will help us take wise action when we are met with really challenging others.

Notice the early warning signs. When faced with a difficult other, we may have a strong feeling in our bodies before it ever hits our minds. Use the body as the early warning system. When interacting with a difficult other, notice if you feel enraged, drained, or diminished. These primal bodily feelings can help point you to the type of difficult person you may be dealing with.

Triage

Narcissists. While there is no real treatment for these very challenging others, it is important to do your own assessment. The narcissist is characterized by four pillars:

1. Lack of empathy
2. Strong sense of entitlement
3. Huge need for validation
4. Outsized sense of grandiosity about their abilities

If you're in a close relationship with a narcissist such as an interpersonal relationship, a coworker or a boss, the recommendation is to not walk, but run away as fast as you can. The narcissist is incapable of caring while he or she may pretend to care, they actually lack empathy which makes it impossible to build trust and have a strong working relationship with them. It is very bad for one's health to be around a narcissist on a regular basis. Their behavior often includes gaslighting, lying, and manipulating to get

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one's way which can severely impact one's sense of well-being. I recommend a YouTube channel, Dr. Ramani who is a psychologist and expert in narcissism. She has a very practical and direct approaches on how to identify and minimize the corrosion a narcissist can have on others.

Bullies. Bully behavior is not so much inherent in the personality, it can occur in a person who can be respectful and even great to work with, but if something goes wrong, or they don't get their way, they may act out in highly ineffective ways, lashing out at others. They lack the ability to self-regulate. They are people that may yell or pout or manipulate to get their way. they don't have the four pillars of the narcissist. They tend to go to extreme lengths to get their way. There are thousands of ways a person can bully another person. I believe it's important to have a red line about what's OK and what's not OK in behavior from others. For me, these include the following five behaviors

1. Yelling/cussing
2. Unwanted physical contact
3. Name calling
4. Throwing things (yes, I've seen a surgeon throw a tray of equipment across an operating room!)
5. Toxic gossip.

When interacting with the bully all one must do is stop the bully mid-sentence. That's right, we stand up, we hold our hand out in a stop position and we say "stop". We become the grown up in a firm and friendly tone and say " we don't call people names in this office" or " this conversation is over, we can continue another time" or "I've never let anybody talk to me like that, and I'm not going to start now".

Your only job is to stop the conversation. It is important to develop the discipline to not engage with the **content** of what the bully is saying, who's right/ who's wrong/how they're wrong etc. Your sole job is to stop the behavior, to make it safe. Next, it's essential that the next time you see that person in a calmer way you circle back, and you talk about the bullying that took place. Make an appointment, do not ignore it. We train people on how we want to be treated and if you want to eliminate bully behavior in your life and all the stress it creates, then the follow-up conversation is essential. It could begin such as "what happened yesterday? I thought we were trying to build a cohesive team and your behavior seemed to work against that." When dealing with a bully it's important to use **you** statements, "your behavior/ yelling/ throwing things" so we put a spotlight on the unacceptable behavior

Emotional Vampires. Emotional vampires come in many flavors, what they all have in common is that they leave you feeling drained. Your body will know by this feeling of exhaustion and futility when interacting with an emotional vampire. They're often wedded to the problem and not at all interested in solutions. You can identify this particular type of difficult person by noticing what happens when suggestions are offered, solutions are brainstormed and they are met with a wall of resistance by the

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emotional vampire. The most important thing to do when we feel drained is to change course and refuse to give any advice to the emotional vampire. This is where conserving our energy on the things that are good, growth-oriented and solution-focused comes into play. Have some at-the-ready statements to remind yourself first that you are not engaging in a conversation with an emotional vampire. Neutralizing statements such as “you might be right” or “good to know” or “interesting” help you build the discipline to not problem-solve for the emotional vampire. It’s the discipline of deciding to engage and or be reactive. I have found that having some neutralizing statements at the ready has been enormously helpful for me to disentangle myself from emotional vampires and my natural desire to want to help.

We are the only human species that has the capacity to decide ahead of time how we want to respond. It is a superpower and we can all get better at handling the most difficult people around us and greatly reduce the stress we may feel around them. It takes practice and tuning into your body. Listen to it.

Never let somebody else’s bad behavior determine yours.



Born and raised in New Jersey, Eileen T. O’Grady PhD, RN, NP, a certified nurse practitioner and wellness coach, is founder of The School of Wellness, a group of practitioners dedicated to inspiring and providing practical tools to organizations and individuals to enable them to choose, practice and promote wellbeing. Dr. O’Grady has worked (virtually) across the United States in dozens of organizations leading discussions on wellbeing and resilience. She holds a Master’s degree in Public Health (George Washington University), a Master’s degree in Nursing and a PhD in Nursing (George Mason University). She is an author and editor of two textbooks, *Advanced Practice Nursing: An Integrative Approach* (7th ed., 2022) and *Intentional Therapeutic Relationships: Advancing Caring in Health Care* a how-to book on placing relationships at the center of health care (In Press, 2022). Her most recent book, *Choosing Wellness: Unconventional Wisdom for the Overwhelmed, the Discouraged, the Addicted, the Fearful or the Stuck*, (2021) is her most personal. O’Grady lives in McLean Virginia, USA.



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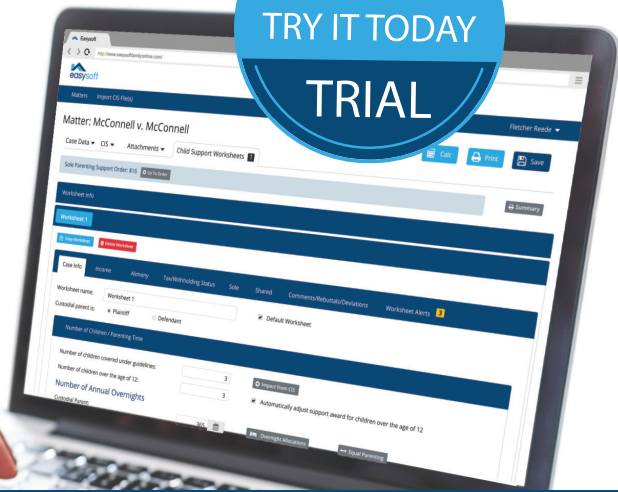


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What Paralegals Can Learn from the Great Betty White

By Melissa Acosta

-Prepare for your Assignments and Deadline

Many biographies about Betty White show that she used to rehearse her roles in advance many times. She was very organized and no matter how many years of experience she had as an actress, she would constantly prepare for her movie and TV roles by rehearsing.

Similarly, paralegals have to prepare for their upcoming assignments and deadlines by “rehearsing” if you will. Specifically, if you know that a Court filing deadline is approaching next month, you can be proactive by preparing for the Court date in advance or you can simply email the attorney and ask them whether there is anything you can do to help them prepare for the upcoming Court Date. For Trust and Estates Paralegals, if you have a NJ Inheritance Tax Return (or a federal estate tax return) due in the coming months, you can start identifying the information needed to finalize the tax return and addressing such items with the client or the attorney to meet your deadline. This type of preparation and most importantly “anticipation” can separate you from the next paralegal and make you invaluable to your firm! Let’s all rehearse...shall we?

-Handle yourself with Professionalism and Grace

Betty White was the epitome of “Grace” and such a wonderful actress who always carried herself professionally both in her personal life and in her work life. As paralegals, it is important that we conduct ourselves with grace and professionalism, including but not limited to, in our use with social media as well as in our personal and work lives. As paralegal professionals, we have extensive heavy client contact in almost every area of law. Therefore, it is important to always conduct yourself professionally as your reputation is on the line.

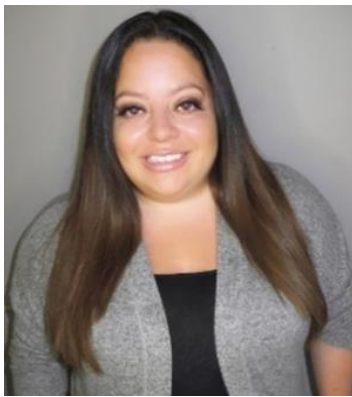
-Be a Great Multi-Tasker

In 1949, Betty White starred in the TV show called “Hollywood on Television”. She eventually hosted the show and had to also “multi-task” and do the TV commercials live for the show because back then there were no TV commercial breaks.

As paralegal professionals, we can all learn from Betty White and become great multi-taskers. What separates you from other paralegals is your ability to multi-task. Multi-tasking skills are

important because they create an efficient work environment, and it also saves a lot of time and money. It also increases productivity and reduces procrastination.

Betty White was an inspiration to us all. Whether you are from St. Olaf, Cleveland, New Jersey or anywhere around the world, we can all take a chapter from her life book and use it in our very own way to make ourselves just a tad bit better in our personal and professional lives! As Paralegal professionals, we have learned many invaluable tips that we will keep with us from the Great Betty White! Thank you for being a friend, Betty!



Melissa Acosta is the owner of Melissa Acosta Freelance Paralegal Services LLC. A freelance paralegal company that services the tri-state area in the areas of Trust and estates, personal injury, litigation, employment law and immigration. Melissa has been a board member of the PANJ and currently serves as a Trustee -at-Large she is also a member of the NJSBA Paralegal Committee. Her true passion is serving as Trustee of the Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation, a foundation that helps breast cancer patients, which is a cause that is near and dear to her heart. In her spare time, Melissa enjoys spending time with her chow chow dog Lady and traveling with her husband!

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