

COMMITTEES

PANJ is driven by its members and is only as strong as their participation. It is essential that members are involved in their professional association and PANJ encourages its members to actively participate in committee work. Aside from the Executive Board, committees are an integral mechanism of the Association.

Professional Development

Notifies Executive Board of external continuing legal education which would benefit the membership. Arranges speaking engagements at educational institutions that offer paralegal programs.

Ethics

Identifies ethical issues pertaining to the paralegal profession. Monitors current legislation and reports outcome of ethical questions to the Executive Board.

Public Relations

Broadens the public's understanding of the functions of the paralegal through distribution of literature, event attendance and marketing products.

Program Planning

Plans general membership meetings and continuing education seminars. Arranges sites and speakers. Publishes notice of meetings and seminars in appropriate advertising media.

Membership

Answers membership inquiries, processes applications, handles renewals and maintains membership files.

Newsletter

Publishes the PANJ Newsletter, *Perspective*.

Job Bank

Manages Association's Job Bank. Maintains relations with employment agencies.

Social Media

Manages Association's social media accounts.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Benefits of membership in PANJ include:

- Professional Development and Recognition.
- Discounted CLE fee.
- Job Bank access.
- Discounted professional head shots.
- Discounted NALA Certification Exam review programs.
- Certified Paralegal Exam Sweepstakes.
- Discounted career coaching packages including resume writing.
- New Member Referral Rewards.
- Cooperation and participation with local and state bar associations.
- Networking opportunities with colleagues in the profession.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular	\$50.00
Associate	\$30.00
Student	\$30.00
Sustaining	\$75.00

Membership is renewed annually.

PUBLICATION

Perspective contains information on upcoming PANJ meetings, events and noteworthy news articles related to the legal profession.



Paralegal Association of New Jersey, Inc.

**DEDICATED TO FURTHERING
THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION
IN NEW JERSEY**

An Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

www.NJPara.org

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The Paralegal Association of New Jersey, Inc. ("PANJ") is a non-profit association formed in 1982 to foster and promote regulated high-level educational standards and uniform practice guidelines for the Paralegal. PANJ also promotes the education of the public for the advancement and improvement of the paralegal profession. In 2007, as dictated by standards of the day, the name of the Association was change from The Legal Assistant's Association of New Jersey to the Paralegal Association of New Jersey.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PANJ is governed by a Board of Trustees, composed of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, NALA Liaison and no fewer than three but no more than eight Trustees at Large. The Board of Trustees is elected annually by the Regular membership.

Multiple members of the Executive Board also serve on the Paralegal Committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and sit on Legal Studies Advisory Boards for various paralegal programs allowing the Association an active role in recent developments and providing feedback as to current issues effecting the paralegal profession.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

General membership meetings are held approximately eight times a year. The meetings are structured as seminars/lectures at which guest speakers present substantive legal topics of current interest. Notices of meetings are emailed to all members via Constant Contact and posted on the Association's website www.NJPara.org and Forum www.NJPara.FreeForums.net.

PANJ is an active participant and sponsor of the Annual New Jersey Paralegal Convention ("NJPC"). NJPC hosts an all day educational event including a vendor fair in October annually. www.NJParalegalConvention.com

NALA AFFILIATION

PANJ is affiliated with The National Association of Legal Assistants ("NALA"). NALA has developed a voluntary certification examination and those who successfully complete the exam are entitled to use the designation "CP" (Certified Paralegal) or "CLA" (Certified Legal Assistant). NALA also provides PANJ with national representation in matters that effect the paralegal profession. Each member of PANJ is bound by NALA's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

www.NALA.org

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

Available to individuals employed as a Paralegal who satisfy any of the following at the time of application:

- Successful completion of the NALA Certified Paralegal Examination; or
- Graduation from an ABA approved paralegal program; or
- Graduation from a paralegal program which requires at least 60 semester hours (900 clock hours) of classroom study of which at least 15 semester hours (225 clock hours) are substantive legal courses; or
- Graduation from a paralegal program other than those set forth above which is in substantial compliance with ABA guidelines plus at least 6 months in-house training as a Paralegal; or
- A Baccalaureate Degree plus not less than six (6) months in-house training as a Paralegal; or
- A minimum of three years law related experience under the supervision of an attorney including at least 6 months in-house training as a Paralegal; or
- Three years of in-house training as a Paralegal.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Available to individuals who satisfy any of the following at the time of application:

- Individuals holding a paralegal certificate and/or recent graduates of a paralegal program (within 1-3 years) who do not meet the requirements of Regular membership; or
- Individuals qualified for Regular membership but who are not employed as a Paralegal.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Available to all students enrolled in paralegal programs at the time of application.

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Available to all law firms, corporations, agencies, business entities and individuals interested in supporting the goals and objectives of PANJ.