



## *As the torch is passed . . .*

Lynn Price served as immediate past President of CVPA for nearly two years. She did an outstanding job during her tenure by bringing the membership together and promoting teamwork among the group, among other things. As the torch is passed to a new slate of officers and board, we are charged with promulgating the objectives and goals established in our By-Laws. We must do due diligence, and maintain a local forum for paralegals to share knowledge, forms, ideas and experience. CVPA will continue to promote the paralegal profession, including increasing attorney awareness of the value of paralegals, and to encourage ethical and professional conduct in the paralegal profession.

All this sounds very positive and ambitious, right? But you may wonder: "What can CVPA do for me and why should I join or renew my membership?" Here are but a few benefits of membership.

The CVPA website includes a current job bank, listing vacancies and employment leads. The job bank is a great basis for your formal job search. If you are actively seeking new employment, it can be an especially tedious process, for it is definitely

*(See Torch Page 2)*

*At the October 13, 2009 Annual Meeting of CVPA, the following slate of officers was voted on and approved:*

*President: Cyndy Adams*

*Vice-President & Treasurer: Leah Poovey*

*Secretary: Cheryl Barker*

*Asst. Treasurer: Judy Glasscock*

*Asst. Secretary: Peggy Hallman*

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## **CVPA MEMBER PAM HEMPHILL NAMED BURKE COUNTY BPW WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to our own Pam Hemphill! Pam has been named as Burke County's Business and Professional Women's "Woman of the Year." This honor is given annually to a woman who is actively engaged in a business or profession and has made outstanding contributions to her community.

Pam has certainly made a difference in her community. She has been a team recruiter, co-chair and chairman of Relay for Life. She is currently active in the Susan G. Komen Foothills affiliate, Habitat for Humanity of Burke County, North Carolina Youth Soccer Association, Burke Soccer Association, Mountain View Recreation Board of Advisors, North Carolina Council of Women, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Morganton, and the Western North Carolina Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

Pam is a certified paralegal and private attorney involvement coordinator at Legal Aid in Morganton.

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### **NEW DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

*Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Timothy S. Kincaid administered the oath of office to new District Court Judge Robert A. (B.J.) Mullinax, Jr. on October 30. Judge Mullinax was appointed to the District Court bench for the 25th Judicial District by Governor Beverly Perdue to fill the unexpired term of the late John Mull.*



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## **CATAWBA VALLEY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Cyndy Adams, President [cyndyadams@hughes.net](mailto:cyndyadams@hughes.net)  
Leah Poovey, Vice President & Treasurer [lpoovey@phd-law.com](mailto:lpoovey@phd-law.com)  
Cheryl Barker, Secretary [cheryl@ssi-law.com](mailto:cheryl@ssi-law.com)  
Judy Glasscock, Asst. Treasurer [jglasscock@phd-law.com](mailto:jglasscock@phd-law.com)  
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**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER**

### *As The Torch is Passed . . .*

an employer's market. Take advantage of the free information available to you on the CVPA website.

CVPA is a great source of networking. It's been said: "It's not what you know, but *who* you know." And it has been widely written that networking (informal job search) is the best way to land your "ideal job." Fewer than 5% of successful job seekers are actually hired as the result of an application, resume or response to a job posting. With quarterly social events for members and their guests, networking is easy! In addition to being an opportunity for friendship and fellowship, every new person you meet opens the door for an idea, a website, a name or contact. Successful networking can establish personal and professional relationships through effective communication, a skill that any employer requires, especially in the legal field.

Our group furthers education and quality fellowship among its membership through timely CPE presentations and regular meetings of the membership. From June 2008 through November 2009, we will have held 10 CPE courses, with CPE credit being approved by the North Carolina State Bar for each. With CPE's already lined up for January, February, April, May and June 2010, it's easy to earn all your required credits. The January 2010 CPE topic will be "Ethics" and will meet the 1.0 hour of Ethics CPE requirement by the State Bar. Best of all, CPE is *currently free* to you! The annual cost of professional/general membership in CVPA is just \$30 for the year which begins October 1 and ends September 30. You do the math and figure out where else you could get *even one hour* of CPE credit for just \$30.

Membership in CVPA offers many advantages and opportunities, but it's up to you how you implement these tools. For more information on CVPA, to download an Application for Membership, or to find a Renewal Application, visit our website at: [www.catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org](http://www.catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org). Be sure to join or renew today and pay your dues to insure your free November CPE.



*As the torch is passed, we need everyone's spark to keep the flame bright for  
Catawba Valley Paralegal Association!*

*-Cyndy Adams, President*

## LEGISLATIVE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Section 2 of Session Law 2009-182 (H.B. 1390) requires attorneys who draft a will or codicil to state their name on the document and amends Chapter 31 of the North Carolina General Statutes by adding a new section as follows:

"§31-4.2. Attorney's name on will or codicil. An attorney who drafts an attested written will or a codicil to an attested written will must have his or her name and business address affixed to the instrument and indicate that he or she is the drafter."

This law becomes effective January 1, 2010, and applies to wills and codicils executed on or after that date.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING CPE'S AND EVENTS

### November 10:

"Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice"

Presented by Attorney Wes Barkley

1.0 hour CPE credit

Approved by NC State Bar

CVCC Auditorium 6:00 p.m.

### December 8:

Social at Zanders in Newton

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### January 2010:

Ethics

Presented by Leslie McKesson

Coordinator/Instructor, Paralegal

Western Piedmont Community College

1.0 hour CPE credit

Approved by NC State Bar

Thanksgiving is a very important holiday in our country. It's a time to kick back, relax, watch a football game, watch a movie, and of course, enjoy a huge feast. It's also time for us to give thanks for the things bestowed upon us and upon this great nation. It's also a time for giving. Take time to give back to your community. CVPA participates in the Catawba County Department of Social Services "Emergency Child Care" project. Please bring your donations to any of our meetings. Suggestions for donations are given on page 3 or check out our website for more ideas. [catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org](http://catawbavalleyparalegalassoc.org)

**CATAWBA VALLEY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## RECOMMENDED READS

When the leaves begin to fall and daylight savings time ends, my thoughts turn to fireplaces, crock-pot cooking, and books! Here are a few books I've recently read and recommend, especially if "legal" topics interest you.

"Flame-Out," by James Blackburn. Available at his seminars, this mini autobiography tells how a once-famous and successful N. C. prosecutor of the Jeffrey MacDonald case tumbled from grace. He lost his law license, did time in prison, then later, waited tables in Raleigh. From the depths of despair, he refused to stay down, and clawed his way back to the top. Jim is truly an example of "making lemonade from lemons." Today he has a very successful company teaching attorneys and paralegals about ethics, and more importantly, about passion, life, accountability, and regaining hope. It's ironic that the N. C. State Bar, who took his law license years ago, now pays him to teach legal professionals about ethics and responsibility. Jim is a truly nice guy, and I recommended not only his book, but if you get a chance to hear him speak, do it. You won't regret it.

<http://www.blackburncle.com/speaker.htm>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Raleigh-NC/Jim-Blackburn-Seminars-LLC/84527133983>

"Undue Influence," by Shelby Yastrow. This is a fast-paced read, dealing with morality, human nature and the drama of a civil dispute. Yastrow grabs your attention from the first chapter, when an accountant, Benjamin Stillman, bequeaths millions to a synagogue. But Benjamin is Catholic! And when he dies at age 83, the fight that ensues between the "heirs" is full of turns and twists. Very suspenseful and thoroughly enjoyable, although a little "swearing" is included.

"Key Witness," by J. F. Freedman. One of the best books I've read in years, partly because I only paid a quarter for it at the Hickory Library book sale! A real page-turner that captures your interest from the first pages, it details the story of a successful corporate attorney, Wyatt Matthews, who seemingly tossed it all away to try something new...defending a career criminal charged in a string of murders. The odds are against Matthews not only in his professional career, but also in his marriage. I read this book in one weekend.

"Picking Cotton," by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton with Erin Toreno. The true story of how a young Burlington, NC woman was raped, identified her alleged attacker, only to learn years later that it was the wrong man. What happens between the two after the rape is pretty remarkable and gives testament to the fact that truth is stranger than fiction. Although this book is not as well-written as it could have been, the underlying story is worth hearing.

~Cyndy

Do you have a "lawyer joke" or a legal experience you would like to share? Now's your chance to be published! Please contact me at [phallman@charter.net](mailto:phallman@charter.net). All submissions are welcomed!

### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

The November theme is "Snug as a Bug." Blankets and sleeping bags are needed.

The December theme is "Scrub-a-Dub." Dish towels, sponges, dish and laundry detergent, soap, cleaning supplies, baking soda, and fabric softener sheets are needed.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few we can solve by ourselves.

~Lyndon Johnson  
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Seek first to understand, then to be understood.

~Stephen Covey  
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Facts and truth really don't have much to do with each other.

~William Faulkner  
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Thanksgiving Day comes, by statute, once a year; to the honest man it comes as frequently as the heart of gratitude will allow.

~Edward Sandford Martin

CATAWBA VALLEY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Happy  
Thanksgiving

