

OFFICERS

President: Cyndy Adams  
cyndy.adams@live.com

Vice President: Debbie Miles  
debbie@sib-law.com

Treasurer: Leah Poovey  
lpoovey@phd-law.com

Secretary: Anita Sigmon  
justanita1@embarqmail.com

Asst. Treasurer: Betty Winstead  
betty@hickory-lawyer.com

Asst. Secretary: Kelley Walker  
kwalker\_cvpa@yahoo.com

ADDITIONAL  
BOARD  
MEMBERS

Peggy Hallman  
phallman@charter.net

Jerri Lee Craig  
jerrilee@hotmail

Phebe McClellan  
pmcclellan@ppd-law.com

Pamela Dorsey  
pamela.dorsey99@yahoo.com



Catawba Valley  
Paralegal Association

Post Office Box 3068  
Hickory, North Carolina 28603

# PARA SIGHT

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

JANUARY 2013

WELCOME

2013!

*"I do know that when [my children are] older and telling their own children about their grandmother, they will be able to say that she stood in the storm...and when the wind did not blow her way – and it surely has not – she adjusted her sails."  
– Elizabeth Edwards*

*"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."*

*~Oprah Winfrey*

*"Do the best you can in every task, no matter how unimportant it may seem at the time. No one learns more about a problem than the person at the bottom." – Sandra Day O'Connor*

*"You show people what you're willing to fight for when you fight for your friends." – Hillary Clinton*

January 21st is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*"Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## NOTEWORTHY

Phebe McClellan and Pamela Dorsey have accepted positions on our Board.

Congratulations and Thank you, Phebe and Pamela!

Heather Misenheimer is expecting a little Misenheimer!

Bruno DeMolli is retiring!

Good Intentions or Fiscal Cliff?

By

Cyndy Adams, NCCP

My new favorite is Pinterest. I've found many lovely shoes, designer rooms, delicious recipes, and photographs that I pin on my board titled "eye candy," i.e. Richard Gere, Eric Church, Daniel Craig....you get the idea. Then there are the quotations and words of wisdom on Pinterest to which I am drawn. I have several favorites, including "Breathe." "When the music is good, you dance." "There is no X in espresso." But there is one that stands out from all the rest. *"I myself am entirely made of flaws, stitched together with good intentions."* Well, you know what they say about good intentions and the road they pave. Kind of like driving down that paved road straight into a fiscal cliff.

I believe that there is boatload of truth to those 12 words. Whether we readily admit it or not so much, we are all flawed, in one or many ways. That I am far less than perfect puts me



in the majority, at least from my perhaps "flawed" perspective. We all know what "flawed" means. So, I looked up "intentions" and I found this definition: "The quality or state of having a purpose in mind; something that somebody plans to do." Precede "intentions" with "good" and therein lies the true meaning behind the Pinterest quote.

As paralegals, we may become bored, stagnant, stressed, complacent, ambivalent, and more. It's quite easy to do and we are, after all, only human. We face deadlines, juggle a heavy case load, deal with demanding lawyers, and work long hours. Still, whatever task we attempt, do we give it the old "college try" and proceed with passion and good intentions? Or, do we think: "It's due today! I'll have to rush this job." "At 5:00, I'm outta here." "Take a number." "Let someone else do it. My plate is full." Certainly such thoughts may be honest and truthful, but they may not display the best of intentions.

We owe it to our employers, clients, spouse or significant other, parents or children, but most of all, *to ourselves*, to always do our best, whatever we attempt to do. Be it drafting a letter, washing your car, preparing a meal or being a member of an organization, such as CVPA...flawed though we all are...participate well and do so with the best of intentions.

Are the Washington politicians' negotiations to avert the fiscal cliff stitched together with good intentions? Do you, as a CVPA member, display good intentions? Or, is CVPA on the edge of a fiscal cliff?

“In a criminal courtroom, three important chairs face the judge and witness stand ... one for the prosecutor, one for the defense attorney, and one for the defendant. I have sat in all three.”

- JIM BLACKBURN

## RESILIENCE

**Lessons learned from a visit to the other side – how not to go there – how to come back if you do**  
**Everyone in life goes through troubled times at some point. It can be loss of a job, a family member, a spouse or partner, financial hardship, or just plain making mistakes that cost dearly. Plato is famous for having said “be kind to everyone you meet for everyone is fighting a great battle”. In this new program for lawyers and paralegals, I first address the lessons I have learned over a lifetime of doing things the right way and then the wrong way and what I would choose to differently if given the chance. They are pretty basic –**

- I would try to be more honest with clients – I would tell them no if that were necessary and keep them so up-to-date with what is going on with their case. I would remember always that the case belongs to them, not to me or the law firm.
- I would learn as much as I could about my job and what was needed to do it well – more than what was minimally required.
- I would be more organized and on top of things – really.
- I would continue the practice of kindness.
- I would stick with what I know how to do best and not be what I was not.
- I would try to remember the value of patience – particularly with clients.
- I would follow through.
- I would try to keep passion in my life...both in the legal and personal.

**In my legal career, which ended many years ago, I experienced great highs and successes and then the bottom fell out, and all I had ever known was no more. So I had to reinvent myself to survive and start over. Along the way, I began, somewhat slowly, but steadily to pick up ideas and sayings that, if put together, will lead almost anyone to being resilient. Some of them are set forth below:**

- The best way out is almost always through – Robert Frost
- Let your eyes be eyes and your naves be naves – Sermon on the Mount
- Truth is the most powerful asset any person has – Wade Smith
- It is better to live your life in Technicolor than in black and white – Dr. Jean Spaulding
- The prisons are full of people who should have taken the train to Montana – Wade Smith
- Don’t cry past Tuesday – book by Charles E. Poole – get on with your life
- Find within your winter, that invincible summer – Albert Camus
- The grace of Magnificent Defeat – Frederick Buckner
- There are three things that are real – God, Human Folly and Laughter – since the first two are beyond our comprehension, we should do what we can with the third – John F. Kennedy

### About Jim Blackburn:

**Jim Blackburn graduated from Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. His legal background includes serving as Special Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Attorney General’s office, First Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, United States Attorney, and several years in private practice. Jim Blackburn’s most notable appointment was serving as lead prosecutor in the trial of Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald, who was accused of murdering his pregnant wife and two daughters. A book and television mini-series, Fatal Vision, was based on this trial.**

September 18, 2012



Attn: Cari Burns  
Catawba Valley Paralegal Association, Inc. (CVPA)  
PO Box 3068  
Hickory, NC 28603

THINGS SURE  
HAVE CHANGED!

Dear CVPA Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Guests of The Corner Table, Inc., please accept my sincere gratitude and thank you for the generous donation of supplies and the \$600.00 check to The Corner Table, Inc.



Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated and will indeed be of great benefit to The Corner Table and its guests.

The Corner Table is honored by having been selected as a CVPA Community Outreach organization for 2012. Your support will allow The Corner Table, Inc. to continue its mission of providing nutritious meals in the community for any man, woman or child who is in need throughout the year.

I personally appreciate your donation to The Corner Table, Inc. and may the CVPA continue to be blessed for its community outreach.

Sincerely,

Debbie Leatherman  
Manager

During December, we also contributed additional money as well as books and magazines for the lending library at The Corner Table.

If you are reading this newsletter, the world is still continuing on despite the doomsday prophecies of the Mayan Calendar. Things have changed. Peggy Hallman, who was the excellent editor/publisher of our newsletter has stepped down and left it in my hands. I will strive to do as good a job as Peggy, but that will be some hard shoes to fill.

I pondered the many changes that have taken place during my paralegal career. When I began working, there were no fax machines, personal computers, internet or cell phones. I can not now imagine getting through my day without using all of the above. We typed our documents on cards which were fed into a machine that would print them out. I was amazed at that. What is the most amazing thing you have seen in your legal career? I would love to hear from you.

Kelley Walker

# Recently held CPE

**" Ethics and the Paralegal -Surviving the Ethical Minefield"**

Presented by: Steven C. Lian, J.D.

*NC State Bar Approved 1 HOUR GENERAL CPE CREDIT applied for*

***January 8, 2013, 6:00 p.m.***

**Catawba Valley Community College**

**Auditorium, Hickory, NC**



One of our  
best! We had  
30 attendees.

Website: [catawbavalleyparalegalassoc@gmail.com](mailto:catawbavalleyparalegalassoc@gmail.com)

Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/catawbavalley.paralegalassn>

# LAW UPDATE

## New Rendering Law Effective January 1, 2013

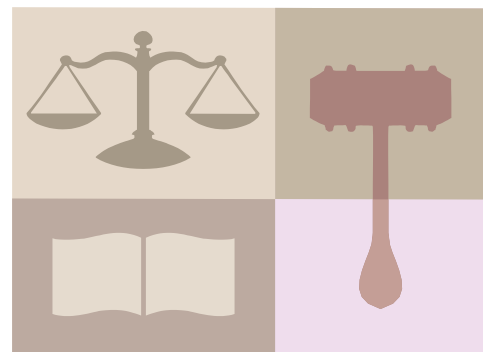
**§ 1Page 4-79.2. Waste kitchen grease; unlawful acts and penalties.** Effective January 1, 2013, Article 16, Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section which makes it a Class I misdemeanor to steal waste kitchen grease (and/or the container) valued at \$1,000.00 or less. If the value of the kitchen grease (and/or the container) is valued at more than \$1,000.00, it shall be a Class H felony. A grease container in which the waste grease is deposited that bears a name on the container shall be presumed to be owned by the person whose name appears on the container.

## School Violence Protection Act Effective December 1, 2012

**§ 14-458.2. Cyber-bullying of school employee by student; penalty SECTION 4.** Article 60 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to provide that it is unlawful for any student to use a computer or computer network to (with the intent to intimidate or torment a school employee) build a fake profile or web site; post or encourage others to post private, personal or sexual information relating to a school employee; post a real or doctored image of a school employee on the Internet; access, alter, or erase any computer network, computer data, computer program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords; use a computer system for repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or other transmissions, to a school employee; make any statement, whether true or false, intending to immediately provoke, and that is likely to provoke, any third party to stalk or harass a school employee. Students are also prohibited from signing up a school employee for junk e-mails or instant mails or instant messages for the purpose of intimidation or harassment.

Any student who violates this section is guilty of cyber-bullying a school employee, which offense is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor. Whenever any student pleads guilty to or is guilty of an offense under this section, the court may, without entering a judgment of guilt and with the consent of the student, defer further proceedings and place the student on probation upon such reasonable terms and conditions as the court may require

For a complete listing of changes in laws effective July 1, 2012 through January 1, 2013, see:  
<http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/legislativepublications>





Upcoming CPE  
February 12th, 2013  
Presented by  
Susannah Brown  
Hickory Attorney



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 11/01/2012 \$1666.56

Deposits \$180.00

Checks Written \$25.00

Balance as of 11/30/2012 \$1821.56

Submitted by

Leah Poovey