

THE VERDICT



NALS, Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter
c/o Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, 511 Union Street, Suite 2700, Nashville, Tennessee 37219
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Message from the President

By Tina L. Boone, PLS

What a wonderful beginning to the Spring season!! We are having great weather and rain. What a perfect time to plant and have nature water our seeds, flowers, gardens, etc.

When I think of Spring in NALS, I think of our very important yearly elections, which will be held in exactly two weeks on Monday, April 19, 2010 at Noon at the Nashville Bar Association located at 315 Union Street, 8th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee.

This meeting is so important in that you will have a valuable say in our incoming leadership team and the beginning of our next leadership team. This is where we vote in the President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Governor.

This year the candidacy process was a little different in that each candidate was asked the following question, "As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?"

As the current president, I wanted each member to have an opportunity to read what each candidate would bring to the office and how they would truly work with the incoming President-Elect to achieve a balance on the 2010-2011 board. As members of the Nashville Chapter, many of you have lost the zeal you had when you joined NALS, for one reason or another and I hope by reading the answers to the above question from the candidates will renew your interest in NALS and encourage you to come out and vote in the NALS, Nashville Chapter election on April 19.

This is your Association and we need to hear from you. We need you to get involved. I know many times when we do not like something that has happened in NALS, since it is your time and it is a volunteer organization, we tend to choose not to renew our membership and become inactive. If you are still a member of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please voice your opinion and come out and vote. This is a "bring your own lunch" meeting and we will be finished within the allotted hour.

As you will notice we have two positions that are opposed and one position where we do not have a

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candidate running at all. According to Section 3 of the Standing Rules, *if you are interested in being nominated from the floor, please submit your consent to me, as President prior to the April 19 elections.* You can email me at: tina.boone@wallerlaw.com.

Each candidate will have a few minutes to speak to you, as voters, at the April 19 meeting. Please come out and be a part of the election process.

I want to leave you with a piece that a friend emailed me and I believe it's good for everyone to read:

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood.

The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

"Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life.

What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter

2009-2010 Officers

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NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter

2009-2010 Committee Chairpersons

Audit	Tiffany Burford	tiffany.burford@wallerlaw.com
	Susan King	susan.king@wallerlaw.com
Award of Excellence.....	Amelia Workman.....	Amelia.workman@wallerlaw.com
Bosses Luncheon.....	Board of Directors	Board of Directors
Charitable Services	Nanette Green, PLS	ngreenpls5@yahoo.com
Court Observance	Tina Boone, Theresa Marchese, and Melissa Yarber	tina.boone@wallerlaw.com theresa.marchese@wallerlaw.com Melissa.Yarber@wallerlaw.com
Employment	Tammy Morris	tmorris@gsm.com
History Book	Vernice Nance-Syers	vsyers@bakerdonelson.com
	(Linda Hulse will take pictures)	
Journalist.....	Tina Boone, PLS.....	tina.boone@wallerlaw.com
Nominating Committee.....	Melissa Yarbar	Melissa.Yarber@wallerlaw.com
Past Presidents	Donice Alford	dalford@howardtatelaw.com
Scholarship.....	Amelia Workman, PLS.....	Amelia.workman@wallerlaw.com
Sunshine	Brenda Wolfgang	brenda.wolfgang@wallerlaw.com
Technology.....	Donice Alford.....	dalford@howardtatelaw.com
Ways & Means	Stephanie Faulkner.....	stephaniefaulkner@alphareporting.com

NALS Code of Ethics and Mission Statement . . .

Members of NALS, Association of Legal Professionals are bound by the objectives of this Association and the standards of conduct required on the legal profession.

Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and the administration of Justice;
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment.

Mission Statement

We are committed to deliver quality legal service through continued education and increased professionalism, promote and recognize a high standard for members through the certification program, and provide networking and personal growth opportunities for our members.

Happy Birthday to NALS' April Babies

Please join me in saying Happy Birthday to the following members who celebrate their birthday during the month of April and to *Rebecca Glenn with Lewis, King, Krieg and Waldrop who celebrated her birthday on March 31.*

Deborah Stroud
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP
April 6

Cathy R. Barton
Flynn & Radford, Attys, PC
April 9



Amelia W. Workman, PLS
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP
April 22

Tina L. Boone, PLS
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP
April 23

This may not be a full list; but, this is what is available in NALS' database. If your birthday is in April, HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If your birthday is upcoming, please let notify Jerrie Chilcote by emailing her at JChilcote@sherrardroe.com.

Employment Committee

Please remember to ask your office administrator to contact Tammy Morris (tmorris@gcrm.com) at Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin if there is an employment opening at your firm. When opportunities are available, Tammy will send out an email notifying the membership of possible openings. Also, potential openings will be listed in The Verdict.

Sunshine Committee

The NALS Sunshine Committee is responsible for sending cards, flowers, etc. to any member in a time of need.

If you know of a member within the Nashville Chapter that is ill, gave birth or has experienced a loss, please email or call Brenda Wolfgang at brenda.wolfgang@wallerlaw.com or 850-8768 to let her know so that the Nashville Chapter can send a card.

Monthly Membership/Board Combined Meeting

The monthly NALS Membership/Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 19, 2010. This is an extremely important meeting. It is our yearly elections. On pages 10 through 16, you will find information on the candidates.

TO: Voting Members of
NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter

FROM: Brenda Wolfgang, Parliamentarian
NALS – Association of Legal Professionals
Nashville Chapter

DATE: March 1, 2010

RE: Proposed Amendment to Bylaws

In accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 2 of the Bylaws of NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter notice is hereby given that the proposed bylaw amendment will be presented for consideration by the voting members present at the regular meeting of this Association to be held **March 15, 2010**.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

ARTICLE IX – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Currently Reads:

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of this Association shall be May 1 through April 30.

Proposed Change:

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of this Association shall be **June 1** through **May 31**.

NALS – ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, NASHVILLE CHAPTER

CHRIS GAYLON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Each year our Chapter awards a scholarship in honor of Chris Galyon.
The award will be given at the May 2010 Membership Meeting.

Applicants must show financial need, should be pursuing education in the legal field (legal assistant, paralegal, court reporter, court interpreter, etc.), must be enrolled or accepted into such a program, and must have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Members of NALS are not eligible.

The amount of the scholarship is \$300.

Application materials must be received by **April 16, 2010**.

If you know someone that could benefit from this scholarship, please contact Amelia Workman at aworkman@wallerlaw.com for an application form.

**NALS – ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS
NASHVILLE CHAPTER**

MINUTES OF MONTHLY BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 15, 2010

The monthly board/membership meeting of NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter (“NALS”) was held on March 15, 2010, at the Nashville Bar Association.

President Tina Boone, PLS, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed all members.

Tonya Bowman recited the Code of Ethics and the Mission Statement.

The sign-in sheet served as roll call.

Minutes. Amelia Workman, PLS, Secretary, distributed the minutes of the February meeting for review. Tina Boone read the February minutes into the minutes of this meeting. With one correction of replacing the word “folks” with “members” under the Award of Excellence, upon motion made by Amelia Workman and seconded by Theresa Marchese, PLS, the Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Treasurers’ Report. Tina Boone, PLS, announced that she has not received the January or February Treasurer Reports from the Treasurer. Consequently, this matter will be tabled until the April meeting. Upon request for help from President Boone, Tonya Bowman volunteered to help Nanette Green.

Bylaw Amendment. President Boone gave an overview of the reasons behind the Bylaw change that was to be voted on at today’s meeting. However, because Brenda Wolfgang, Parliamentarian, was unable to attend the meeting and a quorum was not present at this meeting, it was decided that the vote on this Bylaw Amendment will be accomplished by an email vote of the membership. President Boone stated that she would direct the Parliamentarian to send the Bylaw Amendment to the membership via email.

President Boone made the following announcements:

- Deadline for submission of applications for the Award of Excellence is March 19, 2010.
- NALS Officer nominations are due today
- Chris Galyon Scholarship Applications are due on April 16, 2010.
- Lunch and Learn is April 14, 2010
- Membership/Board meeting is April 19, 2010
- NALS Region 4 conference is in Asheville, NC, on July 30-August 1, 2010, at the Holiday Inn Asheville – Biltmore West.

President Boone then gave an overview of the Professional Development Conference she recently attended in Tulsa, OK.

The deadline for *The Verdict* is March 26, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Amelia Workman, PLS, Secretary

APPROVED:

Tina L. Boone, PLS, President

DRAFT

**NALS, Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter
Monthly Lunch & Learn**

Presents: Marcy Shelton
“Managing the Residential Real Estate Closing for the Legal Assistant”

- Date:** April 14, 2010
Registration Deadline: *FRIDAY, April 9, 2010 @ 12 p.m.*
- Place:** Tennessee Bar Association
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 400
- Time:** 12 Noon to 1 P.M.
- Speaker:** Attorney Marcy Shelton; Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin
- Topic:** “Managing the Residential Real Estate Closing for the Legal Assistant”
- Lunch:**
- (1) Salad Sampler – chicken salad, tuna salad, potato salad, pasta salad and fruit garnish
 - (2) California Veggie Delight – avocado, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, provolone cheese, mayonnaise and Phillip’s special dressing served on fresh pita bread
 - (3) Turkey Breast Deluxe – turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise and House dressing on French roll
- *All condiments served on the side
*All sandwiches served with fruit, pasta salad, drinks and brownie
*Salad sampler served with drink and brownie

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY DIETARY ISSUES / SPECIAL REQUESTS.

Lunch provided by Deli Dave

Registration fees include the seminar and lunch and are payable whether or not the person(s) reserving are in attendance.

RSVP NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2010 @ 12 P.M.

By phone or e-mail to:

Stephanie Faulkner
Alpha Reporting Corporation
Phone: 615-594-0863
e-mail: stephaniefaulkner@alphareporting.com

Please make checks payable to NALS.

NO OUTSIDE FOOD ALLOWED.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
March 31, 2010

The Call for Nominations for all officers (President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Governor) of NALS – Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter for the year 2010-2011 was distributed via e-mail to all members on March 8, 2010 and published in the March issues of The Verdict.

LIST OF NOMINEES

Following is a list of all nominees for each office and their response:

President – Elect:

Donice Alford	ACCEPTED
Theresa Marchese	ACCEPTED
Kristi Seamon	Declined (Did not qualify)
Tara Wilson	Declined
Brenda Wolfgang	Declined
Amelia Workman	Declined

Secretary:

Tiffany Burford	ACCEPTED
Jerrie Chilcote	Declined
Rebecca Glenn	Declined
Elise A. Hill	Did not qualify
Theresa Marchese	Declined
Kristi Seamon	Declined (Did not qualify)
Melissa Yarber	Declined

Treasurer:

Susan Baird	Declined (Did not qualify)
Tiffany Burford	Declined
Jerrie Chilcote	Declined
Theresa Marchese	Declined
Tara Wilson	Declined
Brenda Wolfgang	Declined
Amelia Workman	Declined
Melissa Yarber	Declined

Governor:

Tonya Bowman	ACCEPTED
Sandy Hughes	Did not qualify
Linda Hulsey	ACCEPTED
Theresa Marchese	Declined
Brenda Wolfgang	Declined

In accordance with the Bylaws and the Standing Rules, a nominee must accept the nomination in order for her name to be placed on the ballot. For the information of the voting members, those members accepting nomination are asked to furnish a statement of their qualifications for publication in The Verdict.

**NALS – Association of Legal Professionals,
Nashville Chapter**

**SAMPLE BALLOT
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
2010-2011
To be elected on April 19, 2010**

OFFICE

NOMINEE

President-Elect

Donice Alford
Theresa Marchese, PLS

Secretary

Tiffany Burford

Treasurer

OPEN

Governor

Tonya Bowman
Linda Hulsey

Your Local Candidates
(If you would like to nominate from the floor please contact President Tina Boone prior to the election)

DONICE ALFORD**Candidate for President-Elect 2010-2011
NALS – NASHVILLE CHAPTER**

Year Joined NALS: 1998
 Years in Legal Profession: 24
 Current Employer: Howard, Tate, Sowell, Wilson,
 Leathers & Johnson, PLLS
 Title: Legal Assistant

Offices Held:

National: Membership Committee
 Marketing Committee

State: President
 President-Elect
 Governor
 Strategic Planning
 Web Mistress

Local: President
 President-Elect
 Court Observance Chair
 Certification Committee - Exam Administrator
 Web Mistress

Non-NALS

Leadership Positions: Paralegal Advisory Committee

As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office of President - Elect and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?

Experience, knowledge of the office, ability to compromise, love for the association and a desire for growth and education.

THERESA MARCHESE, PLS**Candidate for President-Elect 2010-2011
NALS – NASHVILLE CHAPTER**

Year Joined NALS: 2008
Years in Legal Profession: 25+
Current Employer: Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP
Title: Legal Assistant

Offices Held:

National: Committee Member @ Law (2010 – 2011)
Local: Certification Director (2009 – 2010)
Director (Governor) Mississippi

As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office of President - Elect and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?

I am a positive person, and I will bring that to the Board. For five years, I was involved in NALS, Gulf Coast Association of Legal Support Professionals. The atmosphere within that group was caring and nurturing, and I want each of us to experience that. I believe in NALS, the Nashville Chapter, and each member. I also believe that we have to put our egos aside and do what's best for our organization. In that way, it will benefit everyone by improving our relationship with one another and the legal community.

TIFFANY BURFORD
Candidate for Secretary 2010-2011
NALS – NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Year Joined NALS: 2009

Years in Legal Profession: 9 yeas as an assistant/paralegal
1 year of law school

Current Employer: Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP

Title Legal Assistant

Offices Held:

National: Membership Committee (2010 – 2011)
Think Big Committee (2010- 2011)

Local: Audit Committee (2009 – 2010)

Non-NALS
Leadership Positions:

Open Door Consulting Foundation, Inc.
(Secretary and Webmaster, 2003 – 2008)

Executive Assistant to the Pastor
(5000+ member church) (2001 – 2003)

Pi Sigma Alpha - the National Political Science Honor Society
(Secretary, 1998 – 2000)

As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office of Secretary and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?

Bringing in fresh ideas and finding a healthy balance between the past and present is vital for any organization to stay viable. I believe that I am qualified to work alongside President-Elect Hellmer to help reach and maintain that balance. Not only do I bring 12 years of secretarial experience, but proficiency in various publishing, word processing and social networking software. I am also punctual, creative, and technically savvy.

As secretary, I would like to assist by not only performing the duties but by expanding the role to make the Nashville Chapter visible to the legal community.

LINDA HULSEY
Candidate for Governor 2010-2011
NALS – NASHVILLE CHAPTER



Year Joined NALS: 2003
 Years in Legal Profession: 25
 Current Employer: Burr & Forman, LLP
 Title: Legal Assistant

Offices Held:

Local: Governor (4 years)
 Marketing Director
 Sunshine Committee
 Scrapbook Committee - taking photos at events

Non-NALS

Leadership Positions: Member and officer with IAAP (1970's and 80's)
 Treasurer of Collector Club in Nashville (6 years)
 Docent at Nashville Zoo

As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office of Governor and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?

I enjoy being a member of the Board and participating in the leadership of the Nashville chapter. Our state meetings are very educational and I have met many members and learned about the entire organization by attending the state meetings. I would like to return to having a Member meeting and a Board meeting (going to different offices). I think door prizes and drawings at meetings are a good draw for members and potential members. I want to increase our membership and make it stronger with more participation.

TONYA BOWMAN
Candidate for Governor 2010-2011
NALS – NASHVILLE CHAPTER

Year Joined NALS: 2010 (Also former member)

Years in Legal Profession: 17

Current Employer: Craft & Sheppard, PLC

Title Paralegal

Offices Held:

State: Treasurer – 2000

Local: Governor of Maury County Chapter – 2000

Non-Nals

Leadership Positions: Cub Scout Den Leader – 2009

As a potential officer of NALS, Nashville Chapter, please explain in 100 words or less, what you will bring to the office of Governor and how would you best work with the 2010-2011 President to achieve a balance on the incoming board?

I am a former member of NALS and have served as its Governor. I thoroughly enjoyed the position and the duties it entailed keeping the members informed of other State business and activities.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

APRIL 1, 2010

As of April 1, 2010, NALS, Nashville Chapter, has 49 members. Of those 49, we had one new member: **Tonya Bowman** of Craft & Sheppard, P.L.C.

Members due for renewal in April are:

Delone Anderson, PLS
Cathy Barton
Tina Boone, PLS
Karen Carver
Jerrie Chilcote
Catherine Collins
Sarah Gwaltney, PLS

Karen Mattingly
Sandra Reilly, PP, PLS
Nina Smith
Janet Willison
Amelia Workman, PLS
Donice Alford, PP, PLS

Members due for renewal in May are:

Theresa Marchese, PLS
Kellye Raiford

Please make our new member feel welcome, and encourage all our continuing members to renew!

Jerrie Chilcote, Membership Director

Richards & Richards Free Shred Day!

Richards & Richards, in cooperation with the Nashville Better Business Bureau, invites everyone, individuals and small businesses alike to destroy their confidential documents securely for one day only – at no cost!

Location: 1741 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010
Hours: 10am – 2pm
What: Free Paper Shredding!

Richards & Richards and the Nashville Better Business Bureau want to help the community to protect themselves from identity theft. So, pack up as much paper as you want – in boxes, cars or trucks and bring it to our location. We'll shred it all for free!

CERTIFICATION

I hope that my articles in The Verdict have given you a taste of the certification exams. The next exams are scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2010, and you will need to have your application postmarked by August 1. If you have any questions about certification, please email or call me. I will be happy to answer any questions. Of particular note is the fact that **all online sessions (including the Online Study Group) will be for NALS members only**. If you are a nonmember, you will no longer have access to participate in these sessions.

This month's quiz deals with the courts (Answers can be found on page 23).

1. The supreme law of the land is
 - a. common law.
 - b. the United States Constitution.
 - c. the United States statutes.
2. The highest court in the United States is the
 - a. Court of Last Resort.
 - b. United States Court of Appeals.
 - c. United States Supreme Court.
3. Common law originated in
 - a. England.
 - b. Rome.
 - c. the United States.
4. The United States Supreme Court has
 - a. 7 justices.
 - b. 9 justices.
 - c. 11 justices.
5. There are
 - a. 8 United States Circuit Courts of Appeals.
 - b. 11 United States Circuit Courts of Appeals.
 - c. 13 United States Circuit Courts of Appeals.
6. Statutory laws are those
 - a. based on law of precedent.
 - b. enacted by a legislative body.
 - c. laws which evolve from court decisions.
7. Venue refers to
 - a. geographical jurisdiction.
 - b. personal jurisdiction.
 - c. subject jurisdiction.
8. Federal court judges are appointed for
 - a. six-year terms.
 - b. twelve-year terms.
 - c. life.
9. Jurisdiction is the authority given to a court to
 - a. create another judicial district.
 - b. hear and decide certain cases.
 - c. restructure a constitutional court.

Do something for yourself: get certified!

Theresa Marchese, PLS
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The Current Status of Tennessee's Grandparent Visitation Law

"Reprinted with permission from the Tennessee Bar Journal, a publication of the Tennessee Bar Association."

Written by Marlene Eskind Moses and Jessica J. Uitto

1. History of Tennessee's Grandparent Visitation Statute

Tennessee's Constitution is deeply rooted in the concept of individual liberties. As such, Tennessee case law, historically, has strongly protected parental rights, which constitute a fundamental liberty interest under Article 1, Section 8 of the Tennessee Constitution.[1]

Tennessee's staunch support of parental rights was reinforced when the United States Supreme Court addressed the controversial issue of grandparent visitation rights in *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). The High Court held that "the interest of parents in the care, custody and control of their children is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court." [2]

Tennessee's legislature was grappling with the issue of grandparent visitation as early as the 1960s. The original grandparent visitation statute authorized courts to permit grandparent visitation rights if those rights were found to be in the best interest of the child at issue. However, in 1997 and again in 2000, the statute was amended to integrate the Tennessee Supreme Court's landmark holding in *Hawk*, supra. The *Hawk* Court interpreted the grandparent visitation statute and held that courts cannot interfere with parents' decisions regarding grandparent visitation without a showing that the child would be substantially harmed by the denial of the visitation.[3] The Court's decision in *Hawk v. Hawk* was later affirmed in *Simmons v. Simmons*, 900 S.W.2d 682 (Tenn. 1995) and in *Ellison v. Ellison*, 994 S.W.2d 623 (Tenn. 1998). To date, courts must first establish whether there is a danger of substantial harm before determining whether the visitation would be in the child's best interest.

2. The Court's Three-Pronged Analysis

Because of the great deference that courts give to parental decisions, when the court addresses grandparent visitation rights, it must perform a lengthy and complex three-pronged analysis. First, the grandparent seeking the court's intervention must show that one of six situations exists pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306(a).[4] Second, the court must determine whether there is a danger of substantial harm to the child if the child does not have visitation with the grandparent. The foregoing is based on three factors set out in Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306(b)(1).[5] In conjunction with this analysis, the court must also determine if the relationship between the child and grandparent is significant based on three more factors set out in Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306(b)(2).[6] Third, if the court finds that there is danger of substantial harm if the child does not have visitation with the grandparent, it must decide whether the visitation would be in the child's best interest based on seven factors under Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-307.[7]

3. Grandparent Visitation Case Law

The following case law highlights some of the newest and most recent developments in grandparent visitation law.

A. Triggering the Grandparent Visitation Statute: Opposition to Visitation Required

In *Rogers v. Turner*, 2008 WL 4613562 (Tenn. Ct. App.), the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court's order establishing a visitation schedule with reasonable restrictions and dismissed the case. The grandmother filed a petition pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-6-306 against the parents for visitation with her grandchildren.[8] The trial court held that Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306 is not implicated unless visitation is opposed by the custodial parent or parents.[9] The trial court defined the term "opposed" to include situations where visitation is totally denied as well as where the frequency and/or conditions imposed by the parents on the visitation are such that it rises to the level of a denial of visitation.[10] Here, since the parents were not opposing the visitation, but rather wanted to impose reasonable parameters on the visitation, Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306 was not triggered, and the trial court should have dismissed the case.[11]

B. The Court's Three-Pronged Analysis Interpreted

In *Carr v. McMillan*, 2008 WL 2078058 (Tenn. Ct. App.), the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision to award the grandmother 78 days of visitation annually with her five-year-old grandson, whose mother had recently died. The child's father appealed, arguing that the trial court erred in finding that the severance of the relationship between the child and grandmother would result in present danger and substantial harm to the child or that it was likely to cause severe emotional harm to the child pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306(b)(1).[12] He further argued that the visitation schedule was not reasonable and not in the best interest of the child.[13]

First, the trial court found that the petition was proper pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §36-6-306(a)(5).[14] Second, the trial court found that the grandmother had acted as a primary caregiver and served as the only mother-like figure to her grandson before and after his mother's death.[15] The grandmother picked up her grandson from daycare, took him to the doctor, barbershop, library, zoo and park.[16] She met his daily needs by providing him meals, bathing him, reading to him before bed, putting him to bed and comforting him when he mourned the loss of his mother.[17] As a result of the grandmother's role during a very difficult and emotional time in her grandson's life, the trial court found that substantial harm to the child would occur if the relationship was severed.[18] Furthermore, the trial court found that the grandmother's involvement in her grandson's life was so significant that the child sometimes referred to her as his mother.[19] Third, the trial court found that the visitation was in the child's best interest because of the strong and positive emotional ties between the grandmother and her grandchild.[20] Furthermore, she was the child's only significant connection to his deceased mother and her family.[21]

C. Modification of a Custody and/or Visitation Order: A Material Change in Circumstances and the Child's Best Interest Required

In *Saunders v. Saunders*, 2008 WL 2052818 (Tenn. Ct. App.), the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision to deny the paternal grandparents visitation.[22] The paternal grandparents appealed the ruling of the trial court on the grounds that it had previously ordered visitation for them, making the issue *res judicata* and the order for visitation unalterable.[23]

The trial court held that custody and visitation decisions are *res judicata* upon the facts in existence or reasonably foreseeable when the decision is made.[24] However, they may be altered if intervening, material changes in the child's circumstances require modification of an existing arrangement.[25]

Here, the trial court initially ordered visitation for the grandparents after it conducted its three-pronged analysis and, in addition, determined that the father was estranged from his parents.[26] However, the trial court later found that a material change, namely that the father was no longer estranged from his parents, had occurred and thus there no longer were grounds for awarding visitation to the paternal grandparents.[27]

4. Conclusion

While the statute and case law on grandparent visitation can be lengthy and complex, it ensures that the ultimate goal of meeting the child's best interest remains paramount.

Notes

1. Hawk v. Hawk, 855 S.W.2d 573 (Tenn. 1993).
2. Id.
3. Id. at 582.
4. (1) The father or mother of an unmarried minor child is deceased;
(2) The child's father and mother are divorced, legally separated, or were never married to each other;
(3) The child's father or mother has been missing for not less than six months;
(4) The court of another state has ordered grandparent visitation;
(5) The child resided in the home of the grandparent for a period of twelve months or more and was subsequently removed from the home by the parent or parents (this grandparent-grandchild relationship establishes a rebuttable presumption that denial of visitation may result in irreparable harm to the child); or
(6) The child and the grandparent maintained a significant existing relationship for a period of twelve months or more immediately preceding severance of the relationship, this relationship was severed by the parent or parents for reasons other than abuse or presence of a danger of substantial harm to the child, and severance of this relationship is likely to occasion substantial emotional harm to the child.
5. (A) The child had such a significant existing relationship with the grandparent that loss of the relationship is likely to occasion severe emotional harm to the child;
(B) The grandparent functioned as a primary caregiver such that cessation of the relationship could interrupt provision of the daily needs of the child and thus occasion physical or emotional harm; or
(C) The child had a significant existing relationship with the grandparent and loss of the relationship presents the danger of other direct and substantial harm to the child.
6. (A) The child resided with the grandparent for at least six consecutive months;
(B) The grandparent was a full-time caretaker of the child for a period of not less than six consecutive months; or
(C) The grandparent had frequent visitation with the child who is the subject of the suit for a period of not less than one year.
7. (1.) The length and quality of the prior relationship between the child and the grandparent and the role performed by the grandparent;
(2.) The existing emotional ties of the child to the grandparent;
(3.) The preference of the child if the child is determined to be of sufficient maturity to express a preference;
(4.) The effect of hostility between the grandparent and the parent of the child manifested before the child, and the willingness of the grandparent, except in case of abuse, to encourage a close relationship between the child and the parent or parents, or guardian or guardians of the child;
(5.) The good faith of the grandparent in filing the petition;
(6.) If the parents are divorced or separated, the time-sharing arrangement that exists between the parents with respect to the child; and
(7.) If one parent is deceased or missing, the fact that the grandparents requesting visitation are the parents of the deceased or missing person.
8. Rogers v. Turner, 2008 WL 4613562 (Tenn. Ct. App.).
9. Id. at 7.
10. Id.
11. Id.
12. Carr v. McMillan, 2008 WL 2078058 (Tenn. Ct. App.).

13. Id.
14. Id.
15. Id. at 2.
16. Id.
17. Id.
18. Id. at 7.
19. Id.
20. Id. at 8.
21. Id.
22. Saunders v. Saunders, 2008 WL 2052818 (Tenn. Ct. App.).
23. Id.
24. Id. at 3.
25. Id.
26. Id.
27. Id.

About the author:

MARLENE ESKIND MOSES is the principal and manager of Moses & Townsend PLLC, a family and divorce law firm in Nashville. She is the current president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society. She has held prior presidencies with the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners and the Lawyers Association for Women. She has also served as vice president for the United States Chapter of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is the current vice president for the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification. The Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education & Specialization has designated Moses as a Family Law Specialist; she is Board Certified as a Family Law Trial Specialist. Moses is a new columnist for the Tennessee Bar Journal. Jessica J. Uitto contributed to this article.

Co-author JESSICA J. UITTO is an associate at Moses & Townsend PLLC, a family and divorce law firm in Nashville. She also does pro bono work for the family division of the Legal Aid Society in Nashville, and is a member of the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Uitto graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Women's Studies and a minor in Psychology. In 2008, she graduated from Pepperdine University School of Law with a law degree and a Certificate of Dispute Resolution from the Straus Institute. She is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



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[April 8, 2010 - 8:00 p.m. Central](#)
[The Future of the Legal Secretary](#)
[Instructor: Toni R. Beasley, CLM \(Andrews Kurth LLP\)](#)

April 15, 2010 - 8:00 p.m. Central
Leadership Development (topic may change)

[April 22, 2010 - 8:00 p.m. Central](#)
[Word...Document Recovery](#)

Instructor: [Melodi Pentico](#) (Haynes & Boone, LLP)

You created your document following the recommended guidelines but despite your best efforts the document is now corrupt. Can it be saved? In Word: Document Recovery we will discuss basic troubleshooting for corrupt documents.

***Schedule for Online Learning Center and
Online Study Group Sessions***

all dates are subject to change and more information will be posted soon

April 7, 2010 - Will you be the next Award of Excellence Recipient?
Join the NALS Marketing Committee and find out what it takes to receive the most coveted award NALS bestows on its members.

April 21, 2010 - Efficiency 101 - How to Become Profit and not Overhead
by Ruth Schaub

May 5, 2010 - Future Leader Development

May 19, 2010 - Proofreading Techniques, by Kathy Sieckman

June 9, 2010 - Future Leader Development

June 23, 2010 - Location Tracking and GPS - Legal and Privacy Issues

NO SESSIONS IN JULY

Answers to Bankruptcy Quiz:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. b | 6. b |
| 2. c | 7. a |
| 3. a | 8. c |
| 4. b | 9. b |
| 5. c | |

YEAR 2010 HOLIDAYS CALENDAR

The following are dates to remember for the upcoming year. The next couple of pages give you the lists for August and September National Awareness Observances.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| January 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday January 1st -- New Years• Monday January 18th -- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| February 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday February 2nd -- Groundhog Day• Sunday February 14th -- Chinese New Year• Sunday February 14th -- Valentine's Day• Monday February 15th -- President's Day• Wednesday February 17th -- Ash Wednesday |
| March 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday March 14th -- Daylight Saving Time starts• Wednesday March 17th -- St. Patrick's Day• Saturday March 20th -- First Day of Spring |
| April 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday April 1st --April Fool's Day• Sunday April 4th -- Easter• Thursday April 22nd -- Earth Day• Wednesday April 21st -- Administrative Professional's Day |
| May 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday May 5th -- Cinco De Mayo• Sunday May 9th -- Mothers Day• Saturday May 15th -- Armed Forces Day• Monday May 31st -- Memorial Day |
| June 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday June 14th -- Flag Day• Sunday June 20th -- Father's Day• Monday June 21st -- Summer Begins |
| July 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday July 4th -- Independence Day/July 4th |
| August 2010 | No Holidays |
| September 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday September 6th -- Labor Day• Sunday September 12th -- Grandparents Day• Thursday September 23rd -- First Day of Autumn |
| October 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday October 11th -- Columbus Day• Sunday October 24th -- United Nations Day• Sunday October 31st -- Halloween |
| November 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday November 1st -- All Saints' Day• Sunday November 7th -- Daylight Saving Time Ends• Thursday November 11th -- Veteran's Day• Thursday November 25th -- Thanksgiving |
| December 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday December 17th --Wright Brothers Day• Tuesday December 21st --First Day Winter• Saturday December 25th --Christmas• Friday December 31st --New Years Eve |

August

1 - 31 Cataract Awareness Month	American Academy of Ophthalmology P.O. Box 7424 San Francisco, CA 94120-7424 (415) 447-0213 (415) 561-8533 Fax	eyemd@ao.org www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/index.cfm Contact: Georgia Alward
1 - 31 Children's Eye Health and Safety Month	Prevent Blindness America 211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700 Chicago, IL 60606 (800) 331-2020 (847) 843-8458 Fax	info@preventblindness.org www.preventblindness.org Contact: PBA Consumer and Patient Hotline
1 - 31 National Immunization Awareness Month	National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS E-05 Atlanta, GA 30333 (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636) English/Spanish (888) 232-6348 (TTY) (404) 639-7394 Fax (877) 394-8747 International Travel Information	www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niam/default.htm Contact: None designated
1 - 31 Psoriasis Awareness Month	National Psoriasis Foundation 6600 SW 92nd Avenue, Suite 300 Portland, OR 97223-7195 (800) 723-9166 (503) 244-7404 (503) 245-0626 Fax	getinfo@psoriasis.org www.psoriasis.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=937 Contact: Catie Coman
1 - 31 Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month	Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy P.O. Box 196 Libertyville, IL 60048-0196 (800) 886-1762 (847) 367-7623 Fax	info@fsma.org www.curesma.org
1 National Minority Donor Awareness Day	National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program Ambulatory Care Center Suite 3100 2041 Georgia Avenue NW Washington, DC 20060 (800) 393-2839 (202) 865-4888 (202) 865-4880 Fax	nbbrooks@howard.edu www.nationalmottep.org/nmdad.shtml Materials available Contact: Norman Brooks
8 - 14 National Health Center Week	National Association of Community Health Centers 7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 210 Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 347-0400	www.healthcenterweek.org Materials available Contact: Amy Simmons

September

1 - 30 Childhood Cancer Month	Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation 10400 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 205 Kensington, MD 20895 (800) 366-2223 (301) 962-3520 (301) 962-3521 Fax	staff@candlelighters.org www.candlelighters.org/awareness/childhoodcancerawarenessmonth/tabid/406/default.aspx Contact: Ruth Hoffman
1 - 30 Fruit and Veggies - More Matters Month	Fruit and Vegetable Program Office Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Produce for Better Health Foundation 4770 Buford Highway NE, MS K-03 Atlanta, GA 30341 (770) 488-5435 (800) 243-7889 TTY (770) 488-6027 Fax	krthomas1@cdc.gov www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov Contact: Katherine Thomas
1 - 30 Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society 1311 Mamaroneck Avenue White Plains, NY 10605 (800) 955-4572 (914) 821-8806 (914) 821-3607 Fax	www.lls.org Contact: Information Resource Center
1 - 30 National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month	Office of the Director, Consumer Affairs Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 1 Choke Cherry Road, 2nd Floor Rockville, MD 20857 (800) 729-6686 (240) 276-2750 (240) 276-1630 Fax	info@samhsa.gov www.recoverymonth.gov Contact: Consumer Affairs
1 - 30 National Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month	American Foundation for Women's Health P. O. Box 541 Greenwood, TX 76246-0541 (940) 466-9898	mhills@stopafib.org www.stopafib.org Contact: Mellanie True Hills
1 - 30 National Cholesterol Education Month	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Health Information Center P.O. Box 30105 Bethesda, MD 20824-0105 (301) 592-8573 (301) 592-8563 Fax	nhlbiinfo@nhlbi.nih.gov hp2010.nhlbihin.net/cholmonth/ Contact: Information Specialist

September

1 - 30 National Infant Mortality Awareness Month	National Healthy Start Association 2030 M Street NW, Suite 350 Washington, DC 20036 (202) 296-2195 (202) 296-2197 Fax	info@nationalhealthystart.org www.healthystartassoc.org Contact: Phyllis George
1 - 30 National Pediculosis Prevention Month/Head Lice Prevention Month	National Pediculosis Association, Inc. 1005 Boylston Street, #343 Newton, MA 02461 (781) 449-6487 (812) 434-6652 Fax	npa@headlice.org www.headlice.org Contact: Deborah Altschuler
1 - 30 National Sickle Cell Month	Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. 231 East Baltimore Street, 8th Floor Baltimore, MD 21202 (800) 421-8453 (410) 528-1495	sccaa@sicklecelldisease.org www.sicklecelldisease.org
1 - 30 National Yoga Awareness Month	Yoga Health Foundation 4051 Glencoe Avenue, #10 Marina del Rey, CA 90292 (310) 928-6638	join@yogamonth.org www.yogamonth.org Contact: Johannes R. Fisslinger
1 - 30 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month	National Ovarian Cancer Coalition 500 NE Spanish River Boulevard, Suite 8 Boca Raton, FL 33431 (888) OVARIAN (682-7426) (561) 393-0005	nocc@ovarian.org www.ovarian.org
1 - 30 Prostate Cancer Awareness Month	Zero - The Project to End Prostate Cancer 10 G Street NE, Suite 601 Washington, DC 20002 (888) 245-9455 (202) 463-9455 (202) 463-9456 Fax	info@zerocancer.org www.zerocancer.org
1 - 30 Reye's Syndrome Awareness Month	National Reye's Syndrome Foundation P.O. Box 829 Bryan, OH 43506 (800) 233-7393 (419) 636-2679 (419) 636-9897 Fax	nrsf@reyessyndrome.org www.reyessyndrome.org
1 - 30 Sports and Home Eye Safety Month	Prevent Blindness America 211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700 Chicago, IL 60606 (800) 331-2020 (847) 843-8458 Fax	info@preventblindness.org www.preventblindness.org Contact: PBA Consumer and Patient Hotline

September

1 - 30 Whole Grains Month	Whole Grains Council 226 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02116 (617) 421-5500 (617) 421-5511 Fax	cynthia@oldwayspt.org www.wholegrainscouncil.org/get-involved/ celebrate-whole-grains-month-in-septembe r Contact: Cynthia Harriman
5 - 11 National Suicide Prevention Week	American Association of Suicidology 5221 Wisconsin Avenue NW Washington, DC 20015 (202) 237-2280 (202) 237-2282 Fax	info@suicidology.org www.suicidology.org
13 National Celiac Disease Awareness Day	Celiac Sprue Association P.O. Box 31700 Omaha, NE 68131-0700 (877) 272-4272 (402) 643-4108 Fax	celiacs@csaceliacs.org www.csaceliacs.org Contact: Mary Schluckebier
15 National School Backpack Awareness Day	American Occupational Therapy Association 4720 Montgomery Lane P.O. Box 31220 Bethesda, MD 20824-1220 (301) 652-2682 (800) 377-8555 TDD (301) 652-7711 Fax	praota@aota.org www.promoteot.org/AI_BackpackAwareness.h tml
18 National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day	The AIDS Institute 2001 S Street NW, Suite 510 Washington, DC 20009 (202) 835-8373 (202) 835-8368 Fax	info@theaidsinstitute.org www.theaidsinstitute.org
19 - 25 National Farm Safety & Health Week	National Education Center for Agricultural Safety 10250 Sundown Road Peosta, IA 52068 (888) 844-6322 (563) 557-0354 (563) 557-0353 Fax	halversc@nicc.edu www.nsc.org/necas/ Contact: Charlotte Halverson
19 - 25 National Rehabilitation Awareness Celebration	National Rehabilitation Awareness Foundation 100 Abington Executive Park Clarks Summit, PA 18411 (800) 943-6723 (570) 341-4637 (570) 341-4331 Fax	jbrogna@allied-services.org www.nraf-rehabnet.org Contact: James Brogna
21 World Alzheimer's Day	Alzheimer's Disease International 64 Great Suffolk Street London, SE1 OBL UNITED KINGDOM, +44 20 7981 0880 +44 20 7928 2357 Fax	info@alz.co.uk www.alz.co.uk/adi/wad/

September

23 RAINN Day	Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) 2000 L Street NW, Suite 406 Washington, DC 20036 (800) 656-HOPE (4673)	talk@rainn.org www.rainn.org/get-involved/college/rainn-day Contact: Sara Amin
25 Family Health & Fitness Day USA	Health Information Resource Center 1850 West Winchester Road, #213 Libertyville, IL 60048 (800) 828-8225	info@fitnessday.com www.fitnessday.com Contact: Patricia Henze
26 National Mesothelioma Awareness Day	Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation P.O. Box 91840 Santa Barbara, CA 93190-1840 (805) 563-8400 (805) 563-8411 Fax	info@curemeso.org www.curemeso.org
27 National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	National Association of People with AIDS 8401 Colesville Road, Suite 505 Silver Spring, MD 20910 (866) 846-9366 (240) 247-0880 (240) 247-0574 Fax	napwa@napwa.org www.napwa.org/
28 World Rabies Day	Global Alliance for Rabies Control 529 Humboldt Street, Suite 1 Manhattan, KS 66502 (570) 899-4885	peter.costa@worldrabiesday.org www.worldrabiesday.org Contact: Peter Costa
29 National Women's Health & Fitness Day	Health Information Resource Center 1850 West Winchester Road, #213 Libertyville, IL 60048 (800) 828-8225	info@fitnessday.com www.fitnessday.com Contact: Patricia Henze
30 World Heart Day	World Heart Federation 7, rue des Battoirs, Case postale 155 1211 Geneva 4 SWITZERLAND	admin@worldheart.org www.worldheart.org Contact: Jane Park

Member Contact Information

In an effort to have up-to-date contact membership contact information, please complete the following information and either email, mail or fax to Tina Boone:

Full Name: _____

Firm/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferable Contact Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

Area of Practice: _____

Birth Date (Month/Day) : _____

Year joined NALS: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Send this form to:

Jerrie Chilcote
Sherrard & Roe, PLC
424 Church Street, Suite 2000
Nashville TN 37219
Phone: (615) 742-4526
jchilcote@sherrardroe.com



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WHAT IS NALS, ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS, NASHVILLE CHAPTER?

NALS, Association of Legal Professionals, Nashville Chapter ("Nashville Chapter") is a multi-level organization. Membership in the local chapter brings membership in TALS –Legal Professionals of Tennessee ("TALS"), NALS Region 4 and NALS...the association for legal professionals ("NALS").

The Nashville Chapter was first organized in 1949 and was chartered with TALS and NALS in 1972.

WHAT IS TALS?

TALS holds an annual convention and quarterly meetings throughout the state. In addition to the business meetings, legal education seminars are offered at these meetings. Each local chapter sends a Governor to report back to the chapter all business transacted; however, members are encouraged to attend. State meetings and seminars afford a wonderful opportunity for networking with other legal professionals from across the state that have the same goals and objectives.

WHAT IS REGION 4?

Region 4 is lead by an elected regional director that plans a meeting once a year with the states that cover our region. The states that are within our region is Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This meeting is not as large as the NALS national educational or professional development meetings; but, they are generally larger than the state meetings. It is a wonderful way to meet other legal professionals that has the same goals and objectives as you do; but, closer to home.

WHAT IS NALS?

NALS is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-sectarian corporation based upon principles of service to all areas of the legal field. Membership is open to all persons engaged in service in the legal forum, including, but not limited to, attorneys, legal assistants, paralegals, secretaries, typists, word processors, court clerks, clerks employed in law offices, persons employed by the courts, trust departments of

banks or trust companies, and those persons employed in public or private institutions directly engaged in work of a legal nature.

WHEN ARE MEETINGS HELD?

Nashville Chapter Board/Membership meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at Noon at the Nashville Bar Association. A monthly lunch & learn is offered at a nominal cost by reservation on the second Wednesday at the Tennessee Bar Association.

WHEN ARE NASHVILLE CHAPTER'S LUNCH & LEARNS HELD?

Nashville Chapter Lunch & Learns are held on the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the Tennessee Bar Association. Because of the venue, a box lunch is offered, and may change over the course of the year at a cost of \$12 and is a reservation only meeting. The lunch hour is devoted almost in its entirety to a speaker advising on a legal or community topic. You do not have to be a member to attend. Attendance at the Lunch & Learn is a good way to find out more about the Nashville Chapter and meet its members.

HOW MUCH DOES MEMBERSHIP COST?

The annual fee for new members is \$120.00. Thereafter, the annual renewal is \$110.00. A portion of this amount pays your dues to TALS and NALS.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP OFFER ME?

You will be a member of a professional organization dedicated to the furtherance of legal education and having as its main objective the encouragement of its members to attain a high degree of professional excellence in their chosen career.

You will receive publications written for the legal professional, including The Verdict, our local monthly publication, The Junction, the TALS state quarterly publication, Region 4 Newsletter and @Law, the NALS national quarterly publication.

You will have the opportunity to attend seminars, study groups, workshops, and other activities which will enhance your legal education relationships in a local and national network.

You will have access to employment placement at no charge through the Employment Committee.

You will be given the opportunity to serve on committees which function to promote the goals and objectives of the association and, in the process, allow a greater opportunity for new and lasting friendships among members.

You will be eligible for discounted travel and rental car rates, group insurance programs, a retirement program, loan programs, and credit card applications.

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL PARALEGAL EXAM?

The Professional Paralegal (PP) certification was developed by NALS to promote legal professionals who wish to be identified as exceptional in all areas of the law. Certain eligibility requirements must be met to take this exam, and are available for viewing at www.nals.org.

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SECRETARY PROGRAM?

The Certified Professional Legal Secretary (PLS) designation is achieved by passing a rigorous one-day examination. Eligibility for the exam requires at least three (3) years' experience as a legal secretary.

The Accredited Legal Secretary (ALS) designation is achieved by passing a half-day examination and is available to persons who have completed one of the following: a secretarial course, the NALS Legal Training Course, or one year of secretarial experience.

Those interested in sitting for these examinations can attend group study sessions held in advance of the examination. These sessions are provided without charge to members. The examinations are given at testing

centers throughout the United States with one center being located in Nashville.

The examination covers a variety of subjects: Written Communication; Ethics & Judgment; Office Procedures & Technology; Legal Knowledge & Skills.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER ANNUAL EVENTS

Bosses Appreciation Luncheon is held each October. This event affords the legal secretary the opportunity to invite the attorney for whom she works to a special lunch.

The "Chris Galyon Scholarship Award" is presented annually to a worthy individual who has exhibited a desire to further his or her education in the legal field.

Legal Professionals Night Out is held each year for the legal community to come together on a social basis for the purpose of promoting NALS and encouraging membership in our Association.

In 1972, the President of the United States proclaimed Court Observance Week an annual event in October. Each year our members sponsor a program to recognize our judicial system.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Nashville Chapter hosted the Annual Meeting and Educational Conference of the National Association of Legal Secretaries International in July 1985 with approximately 1,000 members, delegates, and their families in attendance.

The Nashville Chapter has the proud distinction of having members Chris Galyon, PLS elected National President for 1984-85 and Tina L. Boone, PLS serving/elected as Region 4 Director from 2005-2007. Other members have been or currently serve as officers, committee members and chairmen at both state and national levels.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NASHVILLE CHAPTER?

Contact any member or:

Membership Director
 Jerrie Chilcote
 Sherrard & Roe, PLC
 424 Church Street, Suite 2000
 Nashville TN 37219
 Phone: (615) 742-4526
jchilcote@sherrardroe.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP?

Individual members consist of those persons engaged in work of a legal nature and who agree to comply with the NALS Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

You can use the secure online application, or you may choose to print out the application right from the web site or in Adobe PDF format and mail or fax it. Simply choose the method you want to apply, fill out the NALS Membership Application, select a method of payment, and submit your application. You then just sit back and will receive your new member package from the NALS Resource Center within four weeks.

Categories of membership:

Regular Member
 International Member
 Retired Member
 National Associate Member
 (educators, judges and attorneys)
 National Student Member
 (must be a fulltime student)

WHY SHOULD I JOIN NALS?

Opportunities for professional and personal development are plenty when you join NALS. NALS is a tri-level organization composed of NALS, your state association, and your local chapter. Each offers topnotch professional

growth through seminars, quality publications, and local, state, regional and national networking. NALS offers several regional and national conferences each year packed with outstanding education and featuring excellent speakers from around the country. State and local chapters offer more frequent meetings to give in-depth local educational coverage.

Additionally, NALS supports its members by providing the following benefits:

Affinity Programs - members enjoy discounts on a variety of goods and services.

Certification - accreditation for everyone, whether beginning a new career or enhancing your current one.

ALS--the basic certification for legal professionals, PLS--the advanced certification for legal professionals and Professional Paralegal certification.

@Law Magazine - members receive this award-winning publication quarterly.

E-Learn - a monthly update on current topics of interest to legal support staff, delivered via e-mail.

E-News - a bi-weekly electronic newsletter sent to all NALS members who provide an email address, which includes timely information and details of NALS activities, with links to educational information and topics of interest to legal support staff.

NALS Online Learning Center - Education and personal development offered on a variety of subjects with the added bonus of networking across the United States.

NALS also presents a host of other professional development programs including the Legal Training Course, NALS Educational Institute, and college credits.

WHAT IS E-LEARN AND HOW DO I SUBSCRIBE?

E-learn is a monthly educational subscription received by NALS members via e-mail or fax featuring articles, technology tips, legal community news, etc. If you are currently a member and not receiving e-learn and would like to be on the distribution list, please contact Saundra Bates, NALS Member Services Manager at bates@nals.org or 918-582-5188. Saundra will be happy to add you to our list.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NALS ONLINE LEARNING CENTER?

Education, updated information on NALS and various legal topics, networking across the country are just a few of the benefits afforded our members who make it a point to participate in our weekly Tuesday and Wednesday night NALS Online Learning Center sessions. Each week a different topic is chosen as an educational subject or for discussion over the Internet lines. Come check us out!

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH REGARD TO MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Saundra Bates, NALS Membership Services Manager or Jerrie Chilcote, NALS, Nashville Chapter Membership Director

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING ACRONYMS MEAN?

ALS . . . the basic certification for legal professionals: The ALS designation is an attainable goal for someone entering the legal support field. Demonstrate your acceptance of

the challenge while improving your onthe- job skills in the areas of communication, accounting, office administration, ethics and legal procedures.

PLS . . . the advanced certification for legal professionals: The certified PLS designation is the best way to show off your expertise in areas including legal terminology and procedures, ethics, office procedures, and communication skills. That could mean more money and more opportunities for you, or it could mean doing a better job for your present employer! The PLS certification is recommended by the American Council on Education ("ACE") as valuable college credit for as much as 27 semester hours.

PP: Professional Paralegal, this is the newest of the NALS Certifications

SMC: State Membership Chairman

LMC: Local Membership Chairman

CLE: Continuing Legal Education

CLA: Certified Legal Assistant

@Law: The Official NALS Magazine. As a member of NALS . . . the association for legal professionals, you will receive @LAW four times a year. Each issue features informative articles and time-saving resources. @LAW is so informative it won the coveted Gold Circle Award for Most Improved Magazine from the ASAE. The @LAW subscription rate for nonmembers of NALS is \$40.00 per year.

NALS, Nashville Chapter

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**"Stretch Your Imagination While
You Maximize Your Potential to
Think Big"**

We're on the Web!

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www.naslnashville.com

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