

# SNAP SHOT



## *Presidential Ramblings*

### **IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

Canon 6 of the NALA Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility states: A paralegal must strive to maintain integrity and a high degree of competency through education and training with respect to professional responsibility, local rules and practice, and through continuing education in substantive areas of law to better assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to provide legal service.

Once a paralegal obtains the Certified Paralegal credential, he or she must continue to attend continuing legal education. To maintain a successful career as a paralegal, and a credential relevant to employers and clients, participation in CLE programs is required. There are many advantages of continuing legal education, other than maintaining your CLA or CP certification. They include:

1. Evidence of commitment to your profession. Continuing legal education shows employers, clients, other paralegals, and those with whom you associate that being a paralegal is your profession, and not just a job. You take pride in what you do and strive to do it well.
2. Becoming a more valuable employee to your employer. You almost always learn something new when attending seminars and classes and can incorporate that knowledge into your job.
3. If you decide to change law firms and do not have the necessary qualifications or training, continued legal education can assist you by positioning you favorably in the job market. Generally, employers seek specific knowledge and skills.
4. For some people, education is a lifelong quest. They do it for the self-satisfaction of continuing to increase their knowledge.

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### **GENERAL MEETING**

### **SNAP Calendar 2013**

#### **SNAP General Meetings Every Third Tuesday at Noon (see flyer)**

ZoZo's Restaurant @ 3446 Lakeside Drive

#### **February 19, 2013:**

Speaker: Dustin Grate, Spencer Investigations  
Topic: Interviewing, finding assets, and  
social media

#### **May 10, 2013:**

Annual Seminar

### **Officers and Chairpersons**

**President:** Susan Sunday, ACP

**1st VP/Education:** Amy Hodgson, ACP

**2nd Vice President/Membership/Job Bank:**  
Kate Cline, ACP

**Treasurer:** Erin Tieslau, CP

**Parliamentarian:** Susan Davis, CP, PLS

**Secretary:** Crystal Huss

**NALA Liaison:** Anna Buchner

**Student Liaison:** Rachael Chavez

**Activities/Social Chair:** Christine Lamia

**Newsletter & Web Site Editor:** Lynda Traves

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/154903284632632/>

# Fun Tidbits of the Month

**Hot Tips** is a column in which paralegals submit practical advice and suggestions to other paralegals. We encourage each of you to submit your "hot tips" on a regular or irregular basis. Many of us have acquired skills over the years that have made our jobs easier, and we encourage you to share that knowledge with your fellow paralegals. You are welcome to include your name or not.

## Hot Tip from Sonita Harris:

### MAKING CHANGES TO A PLEADING

Have you ever been frustrated while making changes requested by another party to a pleading? Most of the time the party refers to the requested changes by the page and line number in the original pleading. Well, as I am sure most have all experienced at least once, when making changes starting at the beginning of the pleading, the line number references become virtually impossible to follow as things move while you are making changes. I have learned that if you start at the bottom of the document to make your changes and work your way up to the top of the document, the line number references remain the same and are easy to follow.

## Blog Article by Julie Dawes:

On March 19, 2013 the new Micro Entity status will become effective before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Micro Entity status was first introduced as part of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), which was signed into law on September 16, 2011.

The purpose of the Micro Entity status is help "truly independent inventors" who are just starting out by

reducing most USPTO fees by seventy-five percent. To qualify for Micro Entity status, an inventor or applicant must meet the following requirements:

- (1) The applicant must qualify as a small entity. (This may seem like a strange requirement, but part of qualifying as a small entity is certifying that you have not and are not obligated to assign your invention to a large entity. So this requirement attempts to keep large entities from taking advantage of the Micro Entity status.);
- (2) The inventor(s) or applicant(s) is not named as an inventor, joint inventor, or applicant in more than four previously filed patent applications, other than applications filed in another country, provisional applications, or international applications for which the basic national fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) was not paid;
- (3) None of the inventor(s) or applicant(s), in the previous calendar year, had a gross income exceeding three times the median household income, as most recently reported by the Bureau of the Census. (The median household income for calendar year 2011 was \$50,054.); and

Continued on page 5

## Crockpot Chicken Tortilla Soup

Submitted by Susan Sunday

1 lb. chopped rotisserie chicken  
 1 tsp. cumin  
 1 (15 oz.) can diced tomatoes  
 1/4 tsp. black pepper  
 1 (10 oz.) can enchilada sauce  
 1 (12 oz.) package frozen corn  
 1 medium onion, chopped  
 1 can black beans, rinsed  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 bay leaf  
 1 -2 Tbsp. oil  
 1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chili peppers  
 3 (14.5 oz.) cans chicken broth

In a small frying pan, sauté the chopped onion and minced garlic until limp and fragrant.

Place all ingredients, including the onion/garlic mixture, in a large crockpot and stir. (If you like it spicier, add 1-2 tablespoons taco seasoning.) Heat on low for 8-10 hours.

Serve and garnish with crushed tortilla chips, sour cream and shredded cheese. Makes 8 servings.

For a special treat, make your own tortilla chips. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Brush both sides of 8 corn tortillas with oil. Cut into strips and spread on a baking sheet.

Sprinkle with salt. Bake 10-15 minutes until crisp.



(4) The inventor(s) or applicant(s) has not and is under no obligation to assign, grant, or convey, a license or other ownership interest in the application concerned to an entity that, in the previous calendar year, had a gross income exceeding three times the median household income, as most recently reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Micro Entity status can also be obtained if the inventor(s) or applicant(s) receive the majority of their income from an institution of higher education, or are obligated to assign ownership interest to an institution of higher education.

In order to claim Micro Entity status, the inventor(s) or applicant(s) must submit a signed certification stating they meet requirements 1-4 listed above, or meet the higher education requirement. This must be done for each application, including any continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part applications that stem from the original application.

Here is the link to the Federal Register publication on the final rules for Micro Entity status: [http://www.uspto.gov/aia\\_implementation/77fr75019.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/aia_implementation/77fr75019.pdf)

### Washoe County Law Library

75 Court Street, Room 101, Reno, NV  
(775) 328-3250

<http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/lawlib/hoursloc.htm>

### Nevada Legal Resources

Class at Washoe County Law Library

[http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/index/display\\_outreach.html~details=8895](http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/index/display_outreach.html~details=8895)

### Washoe Legal Services

299 South Arlington Avenue  
Reno, NV 89501

Telephone: (775) 329-2727

Fax: (775) 324-5509

Free legal services in Washoe County, Nevada

<http://washoelegalservices.com/>

### State of Nevada Bar

<http://www.nvbar.org/>

**LOPEZ LOPEZ v.  
AMERICAN FAMILY  
MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY, No.  
05CA1361, October 05,  
2006 - CO Court of  
Appeals | FindLaw**

Source: [caselaw.findlaw.com](http://caselaw.findlaw.com)

**Paralegal allegedly stole settlements, retainer fees from Oakland firm for 5 years**  
See article: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_22515181/paralegal-allegedly-stole-settlements-retainer-fees-from-oakland](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_22515181/paralegal-allegedly-stole-settlements-retainer-fees-from-oakland)

### Hot Tip from Anna



## Latest Editor News

Happy Valentines.

For those of us who are lactose and gluten intolerant (much broader than celiacs), it is difficult to purchase chocolates and other confectionaries.

I suggest you mention to your loved ones to check out the chocolate manufacturer's web site and see if the items in question are gluten free. If the ingredient list says "manufactured where products with wheat/nuts etc" don't purchase it. Unless you know your sensitivity to cross-contamination, you could be setting yourself up for a relapse. Many of my reactions I don't see immediately. Some come within minutes, hours or even a day or two later, which makes it difficult to determine what went wrong.

Learn to read labels and check gluten free sites to determine what is considered gluten free. Next month I'll chat about corn, rice, and oats.

If you have any [Hot Tips](#) or fun/educational pictures or stories, please email them my way to [lynda@brync.com](mailto:lynda@brync.com).



# Meet the SNAP Board

Amy Hodgson, ACP  
1st VP/Education



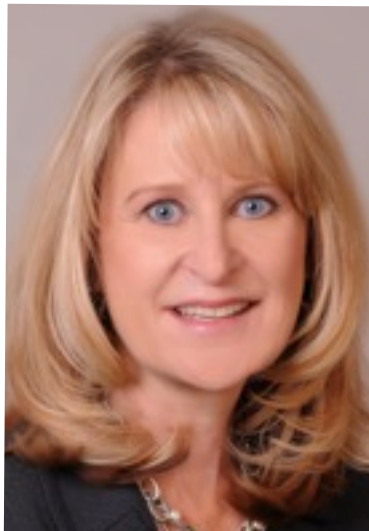
Erin Tieslau, CP  
Treasurer



Kate Cline, ACP  
2nd Vice President/  
Membership/Job Bank



Anna Buchner  
NALA Liaison



Susan Sunday, ACP  
President



Crystal Huss  
Secretary



Rachael Chavez  
Student Liaison



Christine Lamia  
Activities/Social  
Chair



Susan Davis, CP, PLS  
Parliamentarian



Lynda Traves  
Newsletter &  
Web Site Editor



# TECHNOLOGY, EVIDENCE, AND ETHICS

More information to come . . . . .

## **SNAP General Meeting Luncheon Tuesday, February 19 at Noon**

**SPEAKER:**        **Dustin Grate, Spencer Investigations**

**TOPIC:**           **Interviewing, finding assets, and social media**

**PLACE:**          **ZoZo's  
3446 Lakeside Drive  
Reno NV**

**COST:**            **\$18.00 – Members & Guests            \$15.00 – Student Members**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Member</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Guest</b>
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### **Menu - Italian Family Style**

**Please mail your reservation form and payment to:  
SNAP, P.O. Box 2832, Reno, NV 89505-2832**

**ALL RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY FRIDAY, February 15, 2013**

**RSVP via  
Email to Christine Lamia [christinelamia@kernltd.com](mailto:christinelamia@kernltd.com)  
Or [meeting@snapreno.com](mailto:meeting@snapreno.com) OR Evite**