

2008
REAL LIFE
REAL LAW
INSTITUTE

September 12, 2008

Coastal Georgia Center
Savannah, Georgia



Southeastern Association
of
Legal Assistants

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Getting to Know Your Paralegal Association

In 1989, in response to a growing need for a paralegal association in this area, a group of legal assistants and students united to form the first paralegal organization in southeast Georgia. The group officially organized and came to be known as the Southeastern Association of Legal Assistants (SEALA).

In 1990, SEALA became an affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA), a non-profit association which represents over 20,000 paralegals through individual memberships and 85 affiliated state and local associations. SEALA elected to become an affiliate of this national organization because of NALA's leadership in the growth and development of the paralegal profession and emphasis on professionalism and continuing education.

Since its inception, SEALA has been dedicated to the development and recognition of the legal assistant profession in Savannah and the surrounding communities through the promotion of educational opportunities aimed at furthering knowledge and experience levels. SEALA encourages its members to take the CLA exam and offers study groups to those who are interested. To its credit, ten of its thirty-two members have successfully completed the rigorous certification examination.

Taking Tips:

Attire – Bring a sweater or light jacket for chilly meeting rooms. Smart casual or business casual is favored.

Cell Phone - Turn it off before you enter a classroom, business meeting, or an address by a speaker. Courtesy also dictates not making or receiving cell phone calls during social functions.

Recording Educational Sessions – Audio or visual recording is not permitted during the educational sessions.

Special Needs—Be sure to note on your registration form any dietary or special accommodation requirements so that your needs can be met.

The Schedule at a Glance

<u>TIME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF EVENT</u>
7:30	Open Registration
7:30	Continental Breakfast
7:30	Exhibit Hall Opens
8:00	Welcome & Opening Remarks
8:15	Education Session
9:15	Education Session
10:15	Morning Break
10:30	Education Session
11:30	Education Session
12:00	Sponsored Luncheon
1:00	Education Session
2:00	Education Session
3:00	Afternoon Break
3:15	Education Session
3:30	Exhibit Hall Closes
4:15	Closing Remarks

Important Dates To Remember

**Early Registration
ends:** July 31, 2008

**Regular
Registration ends:**
August 21, 2008

**Late Registration
begins:** August 22, 2008

**Institute starts on
September 12, 2008**

SEALA reserves the right to modify the agenda and faculty when circumstances are beyond its control.



FACULTY INFORMATION

D. Michael Conner – “Mike” Conner is a Partner in the Savannah law firm of Bouhan, Williams & Levy LLP. Mike has a broad-ranging litigation and business development practice, with a concentration on complex commercial matters, business organization and formation, business disputes, commercial disputes, construction and surety cases, class actions, mass torts, and most particularly, personal injury litigation. In 1992, Mike graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia, Terry School of Business – J.M. Tull School of Accounting with a B.B.A. in accounting. Mr. Conner graduated with a perfect 4.0 in his major in accounting. He also received the highest honor awarded by the business school – the Order of the Beta Gamma Sigma. He obtained his J.D. summa cum laude from University of Georgia, Lumpkin School of Law in 1995.

Jennifer J. Dickinson – Jennifer Dickinson is an Associate in the Savannah office of Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C. practicing in the areas of Employment and Benefits and has experience with both employment and real property litigation. Ms. Dickinson graduated from Jacksonville University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Music Degree where she was a presidential scholar, recipient of the Frederick Delius Scholarship, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Green Key. She received her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law in 2001. Ms. Dickinson counsels employers on a variety of employment law compliance issues and has defended employers in a variety of settings, including administrative proceedings, mediations and individual suits arising under various federal and state laws, including Title VII, Family and Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Michael L. Edwards – Michael Edwards is the current President of the Savannah Bar Association. Since June of 2004, he has served as the first Circuit Public Defender for the Eastern Judicial Circuit which covers Chatham County, Georgia. Mr. Edwards received his B.A., magna cum laude, from Georgia Southern University in 1993 and J.D. from the University of Georgia in 1999.

Robert D. Fritts – Robert Fritts is the Chief Deputy Clerk of Court for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. He also serves as the Project Manager for the Courts Case Management and Electronic Filing System, (CM/ECF). He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting and Management Information Systems. He has worked for the Federal Court since 1990. He is a member of the Federal Court Clerks Association and has served on numerous Federal Judiciary Committees. Prior to working with the Court, he held positions with an accounting firm and a computer consulting organization. He and his wife, Mary Beth, have two children and reside in Savannah.

Sheila Hickman – Sheila Hickman, a Social Security Claimant Representative and Office Manager for Lasky Law Group has been employed by the firm since 1991. Ms. Hickman's focus is on Social Security Disability and SSI as she deals with clients who have applied for Social Security Disability and represents them during the rigorous appeals process. Ms. Hickman has been trained in Social Security law, procedures, practice and specific medical conditions that affect Social Security clients who are disabled as a result. Ms. Hickman has helped many clients and continues to assist in all stages of the claims process, including representation at Administrative Law hearings. Ms Hickman's educational background includes a Masters Degree in Business with extensive prior work as a Mediator for Alternative Dispute Resolutions in Chatham County and as a Court Appointed Child Advocate for Savannah/Chatham County CASA.

Visit Exhibitors—Visit the exhibit hall at every opportunity. Our exhibitors are important supporters of the seminar and their participation helps defray your registration costs. Exhibitors have special name badges with ribbons so you can identify them away from their exhibit tables.

The EXHIBIT
Hall is
Open
7:30 am to
3:30 pm

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FACULTY INFORMATION

Jeffrey W. Lasky – Jeff Lasky is the Managing Partner and lead litigator for Lasky Law Group. In 1978, he graduated cum laude from the University of Georgia receiving his B.A. in marketing. He obtained his J.D. from the University of Georgia, School of Law in 1981. Since graduating law school, Mr. Lasky has focused his professional efforts almost exclusively on personal injury litigation. He has specialized in catastrophic injuries, medical malpractice, trucking/automobile negligence, nursing home negligence, and product liability. Mr. Lasky has an AV rating in Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest rating available for competency and ethics. In 2007 and 2008, Mr. Lasky was listed as one of the top 5% of the lawyers in the State of Georgia in the *Super Lawyers* magazine

Brent J. Savage – Brent Savage was born in Abington, Pennsylvania in 1953. After graduating cum laude from college at the University of Virginia, he attended law school at Emory University. Brent authored "Class Actions in Georgia" (Georgia Trial Lawyers Association). He served as a faculty member at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Program held at Emory University School of Law in 1988 and 1995-2004. He also served on the Emory Law School Council from 1999-2002 and 2004-2005. He has given numerous lectures including "Tortious Interference with Business Relations", "Maximizing Damages", "Tortious Interference with Contracts" "Direct Examination Techniques" and "Medical Malpractice Damages and Trial Practice. He practices in the areas of general civil trial practice, personal injury, wrongful death, products liability and professional malpractice claims. Brent is an AV rated lawyer.

Christopher M. Stewart – Chris Stewart is with the firm of Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. based in Orlando, Florida. He is a 1994 graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering. His registrations and certifications include a Florida Engineering Intern #1100008920, ACTAR Accredited Traffic Accident Reconstruction, and a certified continuing education instructor for the Florida Department of Insurance. Mr. Stewart is skilled in scene investigation, evidence preservation, computer photogrammetry, crash-data retrieval from vehicle modules, accident reconstruction, and mechanical analysis. He has investigated and reconstructed crashes involving automobiles, heavy-trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, bicycles, and pedestrians. Mr. Stewart has also tested and analyzed vehicle components, consumer products.

Mary Jo Stottlemire – Mary Jo Stottlemire has been a paralegal with the Savannah firm of Lasky Law Group since 2005. She is a member of the litigation team and supports Jeffrey Lasky and John Vaught, whose specialties are personal injury litigation, including catastrophic injuries and medical malpractice. Before joining the team at Lasky Law Group, Ms. Stottlemire worked with a personal injury firm in Charleston, SC and has over 8 years experience as a paralegal specializing in helping personal injury clients. Ms. Stottlemire is the presiding President of the Southeastern Association of Legal Assistants and a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. She is also a certified dive master and a member of the National Association of Underwater Instructors.

Joshua Daniel Walker – Josh Walker is a partner in the firm of Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP. Mr. Walker concentrates his practice in the areas of Commercial and Residential Real Estate, including handling transactions and land development issues. He represents clients in real estate related litigation including quiet title actions. Mr. Walker is licensed to practice in the States of Georgia and South Carolina and in the United States District Court in the Southern District of Georgia. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Armstrong State College in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Economics. He graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1999 with a Juris Doctor.

Network—Bring plenty of business cards and don't be afraid to be caught peeking at name badges.

Meet Officers —SEALA officers are identified by special ribbons on their name tags, and they are truly interested in talking

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Accident Reconstruction - Learn how to better evaluate the issues arising from vehicular accidents and associated evidence by understanding the concepts in accident reconstruction. This session will introduce vehicle and scene documentation techniques, roadway evidence, vehicle damage analysis, crash data from cars and commercial vehicles, and human factor issues. Information will be conveyed using real-world examples and case studies.

Speaker: Christopher M. Stewart, P.E., ACTAR – Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

The Average Joe v. The Corporate Giant – Duking It Out In The Ring with Class Action Lawsuits. Typical class actions involve hundreds, thousands or millions of people who have comparable claims. Class action "certification" permits all claims to be heard in a single trial. Learn the elements of the law and how to prosecute and defend them from start to finish.

*Speakers: Brent J. Savage, Esq. – Savage, Turner, Pinson & Karsman for the claimant.
D. Michael Conner, Esq. - Bouhan, Williams & Levy LLP for the defense.*

Social Security/Disability Claims – Understanding the Social Security Disability system makes all the difference between winning and not winning continuing SSD or SSI benefits and backpay to which a person is entitled. Learn what it takes to be a Social Security Claimant Representative. From the evaluation process to avoiding common pitfalls.

Speaker: Sheila Hickman – Lasky Law Group

Employment Law 101 – Employment law covers all rights and obligations within the employer-employee relationship – between employers and current employees, job applicants, or former employees. Because of the complexity of employment relationships and the wide variety of situations that can arise, employment law involves legal issues as diverse as discrimination, wrongful termination, wages and taxation, and workplace safety.

Speaker: Jennifer J. Dickinson, Esq. – Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C.

The Top Ten List – What Every Paralegal Should Know - a Lawyer's Perspective

Speaker: Jeffrey W. Lasky, Esq. – Lasky Law Group

The Ins & Outs of Case Management/Electronic Case Filing in the District Courts of the United States – The CM/ECF presentation provides an overview of the Courts Electronic Filing System. The U.S. District Court is a mandatory electronic filing court. This presentation will demonstrate the steps needed to file a document using the system. A Q/A period will address any specific concerns of the legal environment. CM/ECF has been implemented in most of the 96 U.S. Districts Courts as well as the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.

Speaker: Robert D. Fritts, Chief Deputy Clerk, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ga.

Nuts & Bolts of Residential Title Examines

What to review to ensure title has passed correctly to a new owner. How to verify prior mortgages, judgments and liens have been paid. What is a 'defective title' and how to avoid it. Unveiling the chain of title.

*Speaker: Josh D. Walker – Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz,
Greenberg & Shawe, LLP*

**Southeastern Association
of
Legal Assistants**



SEALA's Real Life Real Law Institute



Contact Information (please print)

Name: _____

Title: _____ Professional Credentials: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

REGISTRATION FEES & DEADLINES:

Early Enrollment Through July 31

___ \$105 Member
___ \$125 Non-Member

Late Enrollment Begins Aug 22

___ \$125 Member
___ \$145 Non-Member

Regular Enrollment Aug 1 – Aug 21

___ \$115 Member
___ \$135 Non-Member

Student Enrollment

___ \$85
TAX ID#: 58-1976105

On-Site Registration:

Registrations will be accepted at the door on Friday, September 12, 2008, beginning at 7:30 a.m. as space allows. On-site registrations must include payment of \$130 for members and \$150 non-members.

Method of Payment:

___ Make check or money order payable to: SEALA

Total Amount of Check or Money Order Enclosed: \$ _____

1. **Email** your completed form to 08sealainstitute@gmail.com and mail payment to the address below.
2. **Fax** your completed form to our dedicated fax line (912) 644-6274 and mail payment to the address below.
3. **Mail** your completed form with check or money order to the address below.

ADDRESS TO MAIL PAYMENTS:
SEALA

**Attn: 2008 Real Life Real Law Institute
P.O. Box 11004
Savannah, GA 31412**

Registration Fees:

Your registration includes educational sessions, scheduled meals, breaks, and parking.

Payment Policies:

You will receive a confirmation email upon initial processing of your registration indicating your payment. The Southeastern Association of Legal Assistants will accept payment for the Educational Institute by mailing a check or money order to the address indicated below.

Early Enrollment Deadline:

Attendees must register on or before July 31, 2008, in order to qualify for the early enrollment rate.

Basic Cancellation Policy:

If you are unable to attend the 2008 Real Life Real Law Institute, you may transfer your registration fee to another attendee. Notification of a cancellation must be made in writing and faxed to 912-644-6274, Attn: 2008 Real Life Real Law Institute. Cancellations received by SEALA no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2008 will receive a registration refund less a \$25.00 administrative fee. Otherwise, the registrant will be considered a "no show" and no refund will be honored.

PLEASE ROUTE THIS FLYER TO:
Secretaries, Legal
Assistants, Paralegals,
Office Managers and
Firm Administrators.

TO:

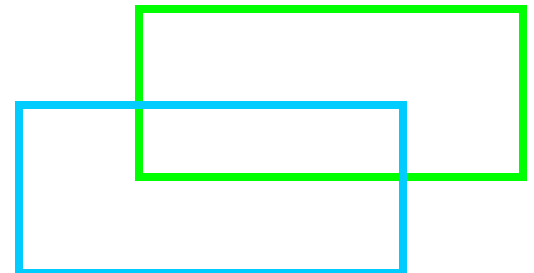
Friday, September 12, 2008

Attn: 2008 Real Life Real Law
Institute
P.O. Box 11004
Savannah, GA 31412



SEALA's 2008 Real Life Real Law Institute

Who Should Attend:
*Lawyers, associates, investigators,
secretaries, court personnel, legal
assistants, paralegals,, office
administrators, and firm
administrators.*



CLE Credit Approval:

This seminar meets the requirements of the Certifying Board for Legal Assistants of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. for .6 unit of continuing legal assistant education credit required to maintain the CLA (Certified Legal Assistant) and CP (Certified Paralegal) credentials.
Approved for CLE credit through the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. for 6.0 hours.

Georgia Coastal Center
<http://cgc.georgiasouthern.edu>
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Savannah, Georgia
(912) 651-2005