



The REAP Record

The Official Publication of
[Redwood Empire Association of Paralegals](#)
Summer 2008 Newsletter



A Message from REAP's President

By [Grace De La Torre](#), CP

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. This evening I had the opportunity to attend a REAP Seminar and had the honor of learning from Clay Clement. If you have not attended a REAP Seminar lately, you are missing out on a chance to listen and be educated by the finest professionals in Sonoma County. Monica Lehre is doing a wonderful job as the Chair of the Educational Committee and putting on the REAP Seminars. Thank you, Monica and her committee.

Elections for the REAP Board are coming up. Elections are held at the General Meeting in September, but we need your nominations by the end of the month to send out proxies. Please contact me, if you are interested in joining the REAP Board or if you would like more information. REAP needs your support.

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Paralegal Student Spotlight: *Lauren Dingfelder*

By [Monica Lehre](#), CLA

I spoke to Lauren Dingfelder for this student profile. I asked her why she decided to become a paralegal. She said she has always been interested in the law and at one time wanted to be a police officer before she decided to get into a safer line of work. She received an AA in business at Heald College in San Francisco, but she still really wanted to do something involving the law. She went to court reporting school for a year but it was a five year program and she decided not to continue with it. She is now a paralegal student finishing up her last class at Empire College before graduating with a 4.0.

She was recently hired as a paralegal at Plastiras & Terrizzi in San Rafael. She went in to interview for a legal secretary position and they hired her as a paralegal even though she'd never worked in a EAP Record - Summer 2008

law office before. Plastiras & Terrizzi have three attorneys (and now one paralegal). They specialize in business, construction and commercial real estate law.

I asked Lauren where she sees herself in five years. She said, "Working at Plastiras & Terrizzi. They're smart and I'm learning a lot. They took a chance on me and the work is interesting."

Lauren recently exchanged bands with her boyfriend who is from India. She's going to India for her wedding in January, and she'll be there for three weeks. She is happy and excited to be finishing her paralegal studies, working in a law firm, and preparing for her wedding.

Research Contest Results

*Congratulations to **Mary Leo**, the winner of REAP's legal research contest. Mary, who has six units under her belt in Sonoma State's paralegal program, also has a degree in broadcasting from Southern Illinois University and has worked as a writer, editor and proof reader in the broadcasting industry. She hopes to work as a paralegal in intellectual property, Internet law and/or employment law.*

Here is a list of the questions and example correct answers:

1. The Acme Anvil Corp. is being sued by the Road Runner for breach of contract. Can a corporation, like Acme Anvil, appear in an action (e.g. file an answer to a complaint) in *propria persona*? Is there any case law that addresses this question?

Answer: No. Although it has capacity to sue and defend, a corporation is not a natural person, and therefore cannot appear in an action in *propria persona*. It can only appear through counsel. (*Merco Construction Engineers, Inc. v. Municipal Court (Sully Miller Contracting Co.)* (1978) 21 Cal.3d 724, 731.)

Family Law

2. Paula Parent has an ungrateful daughter named Penelope. Penelope just turned 18 and is still in high school, has no job and spends most of her free time typing text messages with her thumbs. Paula would like to throw her out. Are there any circumstances under which Paula can be required to continue to support her daughter Penelope?

Answer: Yes. Family Code §3900 states that a parent's duty of support continues as to an unmarried child who has attained the age of 18 years, is a full-time high school student, and who is not self-supporting, until the time the child completes the 12th grade or attains the age of 19 years, whichever occurs first.

Landlord Tenant Law

3. Lola Landlord rents a room in her house to lodger Freddie Freeloader. Freddie has stopped paying rent and won't leave. Is there anyway Lola can throw Freddie out without going through the formal eviction process?

Answer: Yes. A lodger is a person who lives in a room in a house where the owner lives. The owner can enter all areas occupied by the lodger and has overall control of the house.⁸ Most lodgers have the same rights as tenants.⁹

In the case of a *single* lodger in a house where there are *no other lodgers*, the owner can evict the lodger without using formal eviction proceedings. The owner can give the lodger written notice that the lodger cannot continue to use the room. The amount of notice must be the same as the number of days between rent payments (for example, 30 days). When the owner has given the lodger proper notice and the time has expired, the lodger has no further right to remain in the owner's house and may be removed as a trespasser.¹⁰

8- Civil Code Section 1946.5

9- Civil Code Section 1940(a)

10- Civil Code Section 1946.5, Penal Code Section 602.3

Contract Law

4. Romeo Rogers and Juliet Jones got engaged on Valentine's Day. Romeo proposed to Juliet and gave Juliet a three carat diamond engagement ring. Three weeks later, Juliet ran off with Verona's most eligible bachelor, told Romeo the engagement was off and that she was keeping the ring. Romeo wants Juliet to return the ring to her, but Juliet refuses. Does Juliet have to return the ring? Is there any statute that addresses this?

Answer: Yes. An engagement ring that accompanies a proposal is considered to be a gift given in the contemplation of marriage. The gift in the form of the engagement ring would not be given unless for the promise of a future marriage.

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Contest Results

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There is a statute in the California Civil Code §1590 that addresses this type of gift:

Where either party to a contemplated marriage in this State makes a gift of money or property to the other on the basis or assumption that the marriage will take place, in the event that the donee refuses to enter into the marriage as contemplated or that it is given up by mutual consent, the donor may recover such gift or such part of its value as may, under all of the circumstances of the case, be found by a court or jury to be just.

According to the statute, the circumstances surrounding the breakup determine the proper owner of the engagement ring. The "giver" may recover the ring or the value of the ring if the "receiver" refuses to enter into marriage. The "giver" also has a right to recover the ring if the contemplated marriage is abandoned by mutual consent.

Estate Planning/Probate

5. Jim E. Hoffa has not been seen or heard from by his family for two years. His ungrateful children want to have him declared legally dead so they can inherit his bottle cap collection. How long do they have to wait until they can have dear old Dad declared dead? Is there a statute that answers this question?

Answer: Five years. Probate Code §12401 states that a person who has not been seen or heard from for a continuous period of five years by those who are likely to have seen or heard from that person, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry, is presumed to be dead. The person's death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence to establish that death occurred earlier.

Personal Injury

6. Crash Morgan cracked up his 1980 AMC Pacer last week. He rear ended Lil O'Lady, a sweet, 75 year old Irish lady. Lil was stopped at a stop sign and the police said Crash was completely at fault. Lil suffered a bad case of whiplash and wants to sue Crash for her medical bills as well as pain and suffering. Lil let her car insurance lapse last month. Can she recover for pain and suffering? Is there a law that addresses this?

Answer: No. On November 6, 1996, the people of the State of California passed Proposition 213. The provisions of Proposition 213 are embodied in Civil Code §3333.4, which restricts owners and operators of motor vehicles injured in a motor vehicle accident from recovering non-economic losses for compensation for pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, disfigurement, and other non-pecuniary damages if the injured person was not insured at the time of the accident as required by the Financial Responsibility Laws of the State of California, or if the injured person was driving under the influence and was convicted of that offense. Such a person, however, although uninsured, may recover such damages if at the time of the accident that person was injured by another who was convicted of driving under the influence.

Criminal Law

7. Barry Burglar was hungry. He was walking down the street when he noticed that Bonnie Baker's kitchen window was open. On the window sill, Bonnie had placed a freshly baked apple pie to cool. Billy went up to the window, reached his hand into the window, snatched the pie and ran away. Barry is arrested and charged with burglary, which is defined as entry into a structure with the intent to commit theft or any felony. Barry protests, saying he did not enter Bonnie Baker's house. Does the prosecutor have a case? Is there any case law on this?

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Contest Results

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Answer: Yes. Putting of a hand in an open window would constitute an 'entry' for the purpose of

burglary. It is not necessary that the defendant's whole body enter the building. (*People v. Massey* (1961) 196 Cal.App.2d 230, 236.)

Dog Bite Law

8. Paris Hilton's Chihuahua Tinkerbelle bit a fan who reached toward the dog to pet it. Sensing a potential windfall, the fan sues Paris under California's dog bite statute, California Civil Code section 3342(a), which states "[t]he owner of any dog is liable for the damages suffered by any person who is bitten by the dog while in a public place or lawfully in a private place, including the property of the owner of the dog, regardless of the former viciousness of the dog or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness." Paris wants to argue that the fan contributed to her own injury by reaching out toward the dog. Is there any case law that could support or undermine Paris' position?

Answer: Yes, there is case law that undermines her position. Reaching toward a dog to pet him did not constitute contributory negligence. (*Ellsworth v. Elite Dry Cleaners, Inc.* (1954) 127 Cal.App.2d 479.)

Neighbor Law

9. Gladys Kravitz is having a dispute with her neighbors, Samantha and Darrin Stephens, over who owns a tree. The roots of the tree are encroaching onto Sam and Darrin's property. The trunk of the tree, however, is entirely on Gladys' side of the fence. Who owns the tree and what statute supports your answer?

Answer: Gladys owns the tree. Civil Code §§833 and 834 state that the location of the tree trunk determines who owns the tree, even though the

roots may be growing onto the neighbor's property.

Employment Law

10. Homer Simpson got in trouble at the nuclear power plant after he spilled beer on the reactor control panel. Homer's boss said his personnel file is getting pretty thick with violations and he may have to fire him. Homer's friends down at Moe's Tavern told him, after a few mugs of Duff beer, that he should demand to see his personnel file. Does Homer's boss have to let him see his personnel file? Do any statutes deal with this?

Answer: Yes. California law requires that employers allow employees and former employees access to their personnel files and records that relate to the employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee. Labor Code Section §1198.5 Inspections must be allowed at reasonable times and intervals. To facilitate the inspection, employers must do one of the following: (1) keep a copy of each employee's personnel records at the place where the employee reports to work, (2) make the personnel records available at the place where the employee reports to work within a reasonable amount of time following the employee's request, or (3) permit the employee to inspect the records at the location where they are stored with no loss of compensation to the employee.

The right to inspect personnel files and records does not apply to records relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense, letters of reference, or ratings, reports, or records that (a) were obtained prior to the employee's employment, (b) were prepared by identifiable examination committee members, or (c) were obtained in connection with a promotional exam.

10 Practically Painless Ways to Brush Up on Your Area of Law

By [Jeff DiCello](#)

REAP Record Editor

In today's busy world a working paralegal does not always have time to brush up or keep abreast of the law. Below, organized by topic, are ten almost painless sources to keep up with the latest developments in various areas of law without leaving your home, office or car. The sources include printed material, web-based materials and TV and radio programs.

1. Real Property

Benny Kass' Real Estate Mailbag column. Each Sunday in the Open Homes section of the San Francisco Chronicle, Kass, an attorney in Washington, D.C., and Maryland answers questions sent in by readers concerning real property law. Here's a [link](#) to one of Benny's recent columns.

2. Landlord Tenant

This is a two-for-one deal. The aforementioned S.F. Chronicle has two good resources concerning landlord-tenant law.

One is the **Rental Roundtable** column edited by Robert Griswold, a property manager and radio host. Each Sunday in the real estate section of the Chronicle, questions submitted by landlords and tenants are answered by both a landlord's attorney and a tenants' attorney. It is interesting to see how the answer to the questions can vary depending on the point of view of the attorney answering. Here's a [link](#) to one of Griswold's recent columns. Here's a [link](#) to an archive of Rental roundtable columns from Mr. Griswold's website.

The second landlord-tenant resource is the **Rent Watch** column in the Home section of the Saturday edition of the Chronicle. It too follows a Q & A format to answer common landlord-tenant questions.

3. Calif. Appellate Court Decisions

Despite appearances, I am not on the Chronicle payroll, but here again is another resource from that periodical: any article written by reporter **Bob Egelko**. Egelko, who is also an attorney, covers legal affairs for the Chronicle. His articles often explain recent California appellate and supreme court decisions dealing with criminal law and general civil litigation.

4. Wills, Trusts and Estates & General Law

Len Tillem is a Sonoma attorney who specializes in wills, trusts and estates. Using his trademark New Yorker cynicism, Tillem takes calls from listeners on a myriad of legal topics on his two programs on KGO radio (810 AM). His programs air Mon. - Fri. from noon to 12:45 pm and on Sundays from 4 to 7 pm.

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CAPA Corner

By [Trudy McQuiddy](#)

CAPA Primary Rep. for REAP

The California Alliance of Paralegal Association's (CAPA) Education Conference, hosted by the Paralegal Association of Santa Clara County (PASCCO), held on June 21, 2008 at the Santa Clara Hilton was a tremendous success. Attendance topped 150, and the speakers provided educational, thought-provoking and interesting information to all. The Education Conference is an excellent opportunity for paralegals from around the state to network and exchange experiences related to our profession.

Gayle Mozée opened the morning session with an ethics presentation entitled "What Not to Do." Ms. Mozée drew attention to the many ethical issues faced by paralegals and attorneys in their daily work. Both humorous and informative, Ms. Mozée's presentation emphasized the importance of continually policing ourselves to ensure adherence to the ethical standards.

Keynote speaker, former Congressman Tom Campbell (now Dean of the Haas School of Business, U.C. Berkeley), provided food for thought with his presentation "Business and Budgeting Outlook for California and the U.S." His non-partisan presentation of the numbers related to revenues, expenditures and future liabilities of our government was extremely well-received by all.

Finally, James M. Wagstaffe, Esq., Kerr & Wagstaffe LLP, spoke on "Rights in Conflict: Free Speech in the 21st Century." Mr. Wagstaffe represents individuals and corporate clients in federal and state actions, and specializes in the intellectual property and First Amendment practice areas. Mr. Wagstaffe discussed the fact that in an era of concern arising from such acts as school shootings and terrorist threats, First

Amendment rights face constant scrutiny and challenge.

The 2009 Education Conference will be hosted by the Orange County Paralegal Association. OCPA is still working on finalizing the details of the location and date, and I will report these as soon as they are known.

On Sunday, June 22, the CAPA Board of Directors held their regular meeting, where representatives of the 14 Associations come together to work on issues facing the Alliance and the Associations.

CAPA continues its efforts to promote the paralegal profession. CAPA State Bar Section liaisons, Carolyn Yellis (liaison to the Solo and Small Firm Section) and Cynthia Mascio (liaison to the Law Practice Management & Technology Section), have been asked to speak at the State Bar Meeting in September. Carolyn and Cynthia will be speaking on "Working with Paralegals: Efficiency and Money Saving Tips." This is quite an honor for Carolyn and Cynthia, who have worked long and hard to further the relationship between members of the State Bar and the paralegal profession. Thomas Horlick, CAPA's liaison to the State Bar Public Law Section, reported on the meetings of the Public Law Section and his efforts to further advance our profession. Thomas pointed out to the Public Law Section the recent decision handed down on June 2, 2008, by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Richlin v. Chertoff*, which focused on the issue of recoverability of paralegal fees, a case CAPA has been monitoring during the past year. In *Richlin*, the Court held that a prevailing party may recover paralegal fees from the government at prevailing market rates, under the Equal Access to Justice Act. [Continued on page 7](#)

CAPA Corner

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The decision is very supportive of the paralegal profession and the work of paralegals, as it allows the recovery of paralegal fees at market rates. It also cited the *Missouri v. Jenkins* precedent-setting decision in which the Court found paralegal time may be included in attorney fee awards under the Civil Rights Act. The *Richlin* decision helps elevate the status of paralegals in recognizing that paralegals are not purely administrative, but also professional in nature.

Members of REAP are eligible for many benefits through CAPA, and I would suggest that if you have not done so recently, you check out CAPA's website at www.caparalegal.org. There you can explore the benefits available to members, including access to LegalStaff.com (a nationwide legal employment resource), Working Advantage (which provides discounts on goods and services) and others. Please note that an access code, available through REAP, is required to register with Working Advantage - if you would like to obtain this code, please contact me at tmcquiddy@sbcglobal.net.

REAP members are also eligible to attend functions put on by the other Associations at the hosting Association's member rates. Upcoming events are listed on the CAPA website through the calendar link.

REAP will be hosting the November 8-9, 2008 CAPA Board of Directors meeting at the Dry Creek Inn in Healdsburg. This is an opportunity for REAP to show off our community to others from around the State. If you would be interested in assisting in any way with hosting this meeting, please contact me.

"Mining" Social Network Sites for Personal Info.



By Carole Levitt and Mark Rosch
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One of the most-talked-about areas of content growth on the Internet is "Social Network" sites such as MySpace (<http://www.myspace.com>). The term "social network" was coined in the mid-1950s by sociologist J. A. Barnes to describe interactions between people in the real world who have similar personal and/or professional interests. On the Web, it describes interactions between people in the "virtual" world who have similar personal and/or professional interests.

Friendster (<http://www.friendster.com>) was one of the first sites referred to as a "social network." However, later arrivals such as MySpace and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>) have become better-known. Classmates.com, which offers many of the same functions, was launched long before the "social network" label was applied to Web sites.

To participate in a Social Networking site, one typically creates an online "profile" to share information about interests. Most sites give users the ability to post text, images, sound and other information to their profiles. They might also include the ability to create a blog and/or chat with other users, as well as a list of the member's friends and their friend's comments.

Knowing how to mine the wealth of information that people post (or their friends post about them) can be a boon to online researchers needing to find background information about a person or help locate someone, such as a missing heir or potential witness. Recently, attorneys have found information in social networking profiles that has made a difference in the outcomes of their cases.

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Mining Social Network Sites

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For example, a Santa Barbara, California prosecutor stated that the information a woman posted about her partying lifestyle on MySpace.com was the difference between seeking a prison sentence rather than probation when a her drunken driving killed her passenger. Another attorney was able to locate a missing witness using MySpace.com even though the witness did not have a profile -- her young daughter did. Judges and law firm recruiters have also been known to use social networking sites to sift through profiles of potential hires.

Facebook claims more than 24 million members, broken down into "networks" based on their attendance at specific schools, employment at specific workplaces, etc. The e-mail address used for registration determines which network one is a member of and allows the registrant to view profiles only in that particular network. If you lack a "network" e-mail address (e.g. a university e-mail address), you are restricted to a geographic network—such as Los Angeles.

Regardless of what network you belong to, you can still search Facebook to learn if your subject has created a profile and to which network they belong. If you are not part of their network, you will be able to view only their photo and a list of their "friends." If you do need to view a full profile of someone outside your network, you might try sending an inter-office e-mail to all the members of your law firm asking if any of them belong to the subject's network. You could then "borrow" their account.

Sometimes the information in friends' messages can be more useful than information in your subject's profile. For example, we learned through a friend's message on our subject's profile, that she was a student at UCSD—something she had not included in the profile.

Unlike Facebook, there is no need to create a MySpace account or belong to a particular network to view anyone's public profile. The majority of MySpace's 180 million profiles are public. By default, all profiles of members under the age of 16 are set to private.

MySpace provides a Search box, located at the top of each MySpace page, which includes a number of limiters (in a drop-down menu) to help you narrow in on the types of information you're looking for in the profiles. The two most-useful limiters to online researchers are MySpace (which presumably searches through all visible content contained in MySpace profiles) and People (which appears to search through the registration database of MySpace). The beauty of searching the People limiter is that it allows you to search by a person's real name even if they don't display it on the visible portion of their profile. Many people register with their real name and later realize, as they create their profile, that they should not display their last name on their profile—but it's too late if they've already registered with their real name since we can search it by using the People limiter. The People limiter is not explained anywhere on the MySpace page. You just have to know about it and now you do!

Although multiple words entered into the Search box of Myspace are linked together by the "and" Boolean connector, MySpace does not allow for any other Boolean searching—such as the "or" or "not" Boolean

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Mining Social Network Sites

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connectors, nor does it allow for phrase searching. However, you can use the Advanced Search page at Google to create a sophisticated search mixing keywords, phrases and Boolean connectors AND using the Google Advanced Search's Domain limiter, to return only results found at the MySpace.com domain.

One of the mantras of our live seminars has long-been, "don't underestimate the type or the volume of information people will post about themselves online." Social Networking sites are the perfect illustration of this point. Even though they were originally the domain of the 20-and-under crowd, members of all ages post a surprising amount of personally identifiable information and private information about themselves in their profiles. Because of the penchant people seem to have about sharing explicit details with others on social networking sites, online researchers can have a field day.

About the Authors

Carole Levitt and Mark Rosch co-authored [The Lawyer's Guide to Fact Finding on the Internet](#), published by the ABA LPM Section. They also co-authored [The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet](#).

Carole is past Chair of the California State Bar's LPMT section and now serves as a Special Advisor to the section. Carole and Mark both serve on ABA Law Practice Management (LPM) boards. Carole is on the ABA LPM's Executive Board and its Publishing Board and Mark is on the ABA LPM's Education Board.

Internet For Lawyers offers online MCLE programs to lawyers and paralegals for \$20 per credit (or less if multiple programs are taken). See their programs at http://www.netforlawyers.com/begin_online_mcle.htm.

This article is based on a recent program at the State Bar's 2007 annual meeting. The program was videotaped and can be viewed for MCLE credit at <http://www.legalspan.com/calbar/onlinecle.asp>.

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

This November REAP is hosting the Annual CAPA Board Meeting at the Best Western Dry Creek Inn in Healdsburg, California. If you are interested in assisting the REAP Board in arranging this event, please contact me at gdelatorre@sbcglobal.net. The event is held November 7-9, 2008.

I really want to thank the REAP Board, Committee Chairs and CAPA Primary and Secondary for all their hard work this year. As a result of their efforts we will soon have a brochure and a Membership Directory. Go Team!!!

Please do not forget to check out our website at <http://www.redwoodparalegals.org/>.

10 Practically Painless Ways to Brush Up on Your Area of Law

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5. General Law (Small Claims, Torts, Contracts, Landlord-Tenant)

OK, I know I am going to get a lot of flak for this one, but despite my fondness for TV judge Marilyn Milian, billed by her own show [The People's Court](#), as the "hottest judge on television, I sincerely believe that if your goal is to brush up on a little law, Judge M's show gives you the best bang for the buck.

What makes Judge Milian good is that she takes the time to explain the legal concepts in the cases she presides over. Her program airs locally on the CBS affiliate, KPIX (Channel 5 on most cable systems) weekdays from 3 to 4 p.m.

6. Plaintiff's Personal Injury/Medical Malpractice, etc.

[Plaintiff](#) magazine, which debuted last summer, is a free publication, supported solely by advertisers, geared towards plaintiff's attorneys in Northern California. The monthly magazine covers issues, such as personal injury, medical malpractice and employment law from a plaintiff's perspective. Paralegals and attorneys can subscribe for free. To subscribe, contact Jean Hutchins at subscriptions@plaintiffmagazine.com or by phone at 760-721-2500. Even the advertisements are a valuable source of information for such things as expert witnesses, legal software, etc.

7. Personal Injury/Insurance Issues

[California Personal Injury and Insurance Blog](#), operated by Elk Grove attorney Jonathen G. Stein, is full of "information and insights for consumers regarding personal injury law, insurance, and the tort system."

8. DUI Law

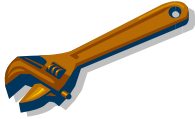
Attorney Lawrence Taylor, widely regarded as an expert in DUI law, operates the [DUI Blog](#). Taylor's tag line for his blog reads "Bad Drunk Driving Laws, False Evidence and a Fading Constitution." Granted, this is not everyone's cup of tea, but Taylor makes compelling arguments that DUI laws have become draconian and have led to the erosion of significant rights.

9. Calif. Appellate Decisions

In the [California Appellate Report](#), U.C. San Diego Law School professor Shaun Martin muses on recent Ninth Circuit and California appellate cases. In addition to his insightful, humorous comments, Prof. Martin provides links to the slip opinions of each of the cases he comments on.

10. Everything But The Kitchen Sink

If you can learn to separate the kooks from those that know what they are talking about, the [Craigslist Legal Forum](#) can be a valuable resource to learn a little law or discuss legal issues. Anyone can read the forum but to post you have to register. You can post using an anonymous "handle." There are several regular posters to this forum who are attorneys or paralegals.



Paralegal "Tools of the Trade"

Reported by Kimberly Reed and Edited by Jeff DiCello

In this occasional feature, REAP member Kimberly Reed interviews a working paralegal concerning his or her favorite job related resources, including favorite websites, print resources and software programs. This time around, Kimberly spoke to veteran paralegal Kimala Krchnavi.

Paralegal's Name: Kimala Krchnavi

Years as a paralegal: 18

Current employer: Hinton, Cochran, Borba & Beckwith, LLP

Main area of law you work in: Personal injury

Favorite websites: To locate agent's for service of process for any corporation doing business in California, Kimala likes the [California Secretary of State's Business Portal](#). For medical malpractice cases, Kimala uses the [Calif. Medical Board's physician license search feature](#).

Favorite print resources: [Plaintiff](#) magazine, which covers issues, such as personal injury, medical malpractice and employment law from a plaintiff's perspective; Insurance Organizations Authorized in California, a pamphlet from the [Cal. Dept. of Insurance](#) published each year; and the Calif. Penal & Vehicle Codes.

Favorite software: For filling out Judicial Council forms, Kimala likes [Legal Solutions Plus](#) from [Thomson West](#).

Paralegal Networking Lunches



Each month, paralegals working in the downtown Santa Rosa area and in Healdsburg meet informally for a networking lunch at a restaurant in their respective cities. These lunches informal and are a great way to meet other members who work near you. Specific information concerning the date, time and location of each lunch is e-mailed to members a few days before the event.

REAP Membership Information

REAP membership dues are listed below. In addition, the definitions of the various membership categories have been modified. The new rates and definitions are as follows:

1. **Voting Member** (dues: \$42.00 per year). Voting members are defined as qualified paralegals by education or valid declaration.
2. **Associate/Non-Voting Member** (dues: \$30.00 per year). Associate/non-voting members are defined as attorneys, paralegal educators or members of the Sonoma County Bar Association.
3. **Student Member/Non-Voting Member** (dues: \$20.00 per year). Student/non-voting members are defined as current paralegal students.
4. **Sustaining/Non-Voting Member** (dues \$50.00 per year). Sustaining/non-voting members are defined as individuals, law firms and companies that endorse and promote the paralegal profession.

To print out a REAP membership application: [Click Here](#)

REAP's bylaws provide that the REAP membership period is from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year. The full amount of dues must be paid when joining REAP, regardless of date of application. First time (new) members joining after Sept. 1 retain their membership for 16 months (until Dec. 31 two years after they join). Renewal memberships are due Jan. 1 and become delinquent on April 1, at which time membership is terminated. If past members reinstate after April 1, they are not treated as new members under this agreement. Only active members in good standing 45 days before the annual or special meeting shall have been called to order shall be qualified to vote at membership meetings or upon other matters coming to the members for action. No active member who is delinquent in the payment of any dues or other assessments shall be qualified to vote. In no event shall student, sustaining or associate members vote.

REAP/Legal Community Event Calendar

A listing of upcoming events in the local legal community



Event	Date/Time	Location
Foreclosure Law During the Real Estate Meltdown (REAP Event) Flyer & Registration Form	7-17-08/5:30 to 8:00 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
The Top 10 Filing Errors in Sonoma County Superior Court Flyer & Registration Form	7-24-08/11:45 am to 1:30 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
Ethics Jeopardy Registration Info	7-30-08/5 to 6:30 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
Land Use: Major & Minor Subdivisions Rules & Laws Registration Info	9-4-08/11:45 am to 1:00 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
Mediation Training Registration Info	Sep. 17-19 & Sep. 24-26, 2008	The Holiday Inn Express Mill Valley, CA
Environmental Clean Up: Stop the Bulldozers! That Dirt is Dirty! Registration Info	9-18-08/11 am to 1:30 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
The Do's & Dont's of Civil Trial & Motion Practice Registration Info	9-29-08/11:30 am to 2 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
Real Property Practice Series - Part 3 - Affordable Housing Registration Info	10-16-08/11:45 am to 1 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
The Do's & Dont's of Criminal Law Trial & Motion Practice Registration Info	10-20-08/11:30 am to 2 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.
Real Property Practice Series - Part 4 - Public & Private Partnerships Registration Info	10-23-08/11:45 am to 1 pm	Sonoma County Bar Assoc.

REAP Adds New Members

REAP welcomes these new members:

Natalia Brouillette
Anne Marie Childress
Kirsten Cicairos
Wendy Cromwell
Farideh Dunford
Delores Goelz
Janna Hunt
Kira Kapple
Annemarie Kennedy
Shannon Ladouceur
R. Penn Lardner
Lisa Leandro
Mary Leo
Carlye Piscitello
Laurie Procsal
Yolanda Rodriguez
Laura Rosenthal
Nicole Marie Tafoya
Magdalena Wilcox
Eyelee Wellington

SSU Paralegal Program Fall 2008 Courses *Click links for more info*

[POLS340 Career Planning](#)

[POLS322 Civil Procedure: Pleadings](#)

[POLS338 Elder Care and Nursing Home Law: A Practical Approach](#)

[POLS338 Intellectual Property Law Overview](#)

[POLS339 Internship: Work Experience](#)

[POLS300 Introduction to Law](#)

[POLS338 Landlord-Tenant Law and Procedure](#)

[POLS310 Legal Ethics](#)

[ENGL300 Legal Research](#)

[ENGLNC Legal Terminology](#)

[ENGL303 Legal Writing](#)

[POLS338 Real Property](#)

[POLS338 Trust Administration](#)

Contact REAP Board Members & Mentors

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Colleen M. Butler Treasurer	cbsoontobe@comcast.net	521-6574
Trudy McQuiddy CAPA Primary	tmcquiddy@sennefflaw.com	H: 526-9509 W: 526-4250

Mentors

Have a question for a paralegal about a particular area of law? Ask a mentor.

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