

- Chris Garber Recipient of NALA Outstanding Contribution Award
- Advisory Board
- NALA's New Specialty Exam
- Benefits of OCPA Membership
- Winter Courses

## Paralegal Post Editorial Board

Editor  
Kathy Miller, CP, CAS

Program Manager  
Beverly Moss-Jones

Paralegal Administrative Staff  
Kathy Amoroso  
Vonessa Low

Paralegal Program Office  
949.824.5528  
paralegal@unx.uci.edu

UC Irvine Extension  
949.824.5414

**We're on the web**  
[www.extension.uci.edu](http://www.extension.uci.edu)

## Chris Garber, Allergan Paralegal & UC Irvine Extension Paralegal Graduate, Receives NALA Outstanding Contribution Award

At the National Association for Legal Assistant ("NALA") 2005 Awards Banquet, held during NALA's 30th Annual Educational Conference and Convention on July 12-16, 2005 in Kansas City, Missouri, Chris Garber, senior paralegal at Allergan, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company located in Irvine, received NALA's Outstanding Contribution Award.

The Outstanding Contribution Award, first offered in 1999, recognizes exceptional achievement in leadership and service to a NALA affiliated association. Chris received her paralegal certificate from the University of California, Irvine Extension in 1987. She has been employed with Allergan since February 1990.

OCPA, a NALA affiliated association, nominated

Chris for her many contributions to OCPA and to the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations ("CAPA"). She has served in numerous capacities including serving as OCPA treasurer, administrative vice president, chair of OCPA's educational conference, membership chair, internet chair, sustaining chair, scholarship chair, bar liaison, salary survey chair, database chair, career conference organizer/chair, and a two-year term as OCPA president from 2003-2004. Chris has served as CAPA board member, historian, website chair, and a member of the Audit Committee. Chris currently serves on the UC Irvine Extension Paralegal Certificate Advisory Board.

During her tenure as OCPA president, Chris efficiently and effectively led the organization during a particularly busy time at work. She ran board meetings via conference call, handled association business via



Chris Garber shown receiving NALA's Outstanding Contribution Award

e-mail using her breaks, mornings and evenings to complete OCPA business -- all from her hotel room while serving as a corporate representative during the *Medavoy v. Allergan* trial in Los Angeles.

For more information visit [www.NALA.org](http://www.NALA.org)

## Welcome New Instructors

Paul J. Wallin, J.D., has been practicing law in CA since 1977 and has been trial counsel on over sixty jury trials. He has served as Judge Pro Tem in the Central and West Orange County Judicial Districts, and as presiding Arbitrator for the OCBA Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee.

Morvarid (Mori) Nasri, J.D., MSc, has experience in the areas of corporate, real estate, and public finance law. She has spent the majority of her career at two large firms, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, and then at Arnold & Porter.

# Benefits of OCPA Membership



The Orange County Paralegal Association (OCPA), was formed in 1977 in response to a growing need for an organized professional association for paralegals. Originally formed as a section of the Orange County Bar Association, OCPA became an independent, voluntary, non-profit corporation in 1986 for paralegals interested in furthering their professional development. OCPA became a member of the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA) which provides a forum for its affiliated associations to address statewide paralegal issues. In 1995 the OCPA joined the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) as an affiliated association. OCPA offers its members a variety of services and benefits designed to advance the members professional and personal stature. These on-going benefits and services include:

Career Advancement - Annual career advancement seminar. This seminar is traditionally held in February and offers education on topics ranging from finding a job to being a paralegal in California, with opportunities to network. The seminar appeals to paralegal students and those who have recently entered the profession, as well as experienced paralegals.

Discounts on CEB Products (CEB publishes continuing education material and offers legal education seminars)

Job Bank – OCPA’s job bank is accessible from the Internet and is password protected. It is available only to members.

Mentoring program for beginning Paralegals – OCPA pairs students/beginning paralegals with an experienced paralegal.

## Educational Opportunities:

General Meetings- OCPA offers bi-monthly dinner meetings on topics of interest to paralegals.

Section Meetings - OCPA sponsors several sections which meet regularly. Currently OCPA sections: Bankruptcy/Federal Section; Corporate/Real Estate Section; Criminal/Family Law Section Employment/Labor Section; Freelance Section; Immigration Section; Intellectual Property Section; Litigation Section; Probate/Estates & Trusts Section; Student Section. The sections hold continuing legal education seminars and workshops taught by attorneys, paralegals, and other professionals.

Annual Conference – OCPA offers its annual continuing education conference to enhance the communication and professional development of paralegals. It is traditionally held on the second Saturday in September and features a wide variety of educational sessions, keynote speakers, and legal vendors.

Annual Salary Survey – OCPA surveys its members about paralegal salaries. The survey results are distributed only to current OCPA members.

Credit Union and Insurance – OCPA members receive discounts on credit cards, favorable loan rates for auto and home purchases, discounts on eye care, and high interest on savings accounts. OCPA members are offered insurance including medical, disability and life, travel club, and financial planning.

Compendium - The Compendium is a monthly newsletter for, and about, paralegals, that OCPA members receive.

Membership - To join OCPA, you can log onto OCPA’s website [www.ocparalegal.org](http://www.ocparalegal.org) and complete the application on-line (with your credit card) or print out the application and mail it in with your check. Student membership, currently \$40 per year, is less expensive than Voting membership.

## Welcome New Instructors - Contd.

Joni E. Bell, J.D., has civil litigation experience in personal injury, slip and falls, medical malpractice, construction defect, real estate law and family law. She is a graduate of Loyola Law School.

Albert Friske, J.D., is a partner with the Law Offices of Friske & Hilliard. He has practiced law for 10 years and has experience with large and small firms as well as public agencies.

# Meet the Paralegal Program's Advisory Board

The Paralegal Certificate program's advisory board meets bi-annually to discuss and review the program and curriculum. The board is composed of student members, faculty, attorneys and judges, UC Irvine faculty, and members of the public.

The 2005-2006 Advisory Board members are:

- Holly Bergels, graduate representative
- Georgina Brewer, paralegal, O.C. District Attorney's Office
- Robert J. Cohen, Esq., executive director, Legal Aid Society of Orange County
- Chris Garber, senior paralegal, Allergan, Inc., past president, OCPA
- Gary S. Gorczyca, Esq., Law Offices of Gary Gorczyca
- Jayne Kacer, Esq., director of Academic Achievement, Chapman University School of Law
- Cynthia Mascio, CP, CAS, senior paralegal, Morrison & Foerester; 2005 president of OCPA
- James W. Meeker, J.D., Ph.D., associate dean of Student Affairs, School of Social Ecology, UCI
- Kathleen Houts Miller, CP, CAS, senior paralegal, Rutan & Tucker, program advisor
- Jon S. Montgomery, CLA, senior paralegal, real estate specialist, Paul Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
- Steven Nataupsky, Esq., Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP
- Cathy Richardson, student representative
- Laura Tarbox, president, Tarbox Equity
- Commissioner Richard G. Vogl, O.C. Superior Court, Family Law Panel
- Zachary Zaharek, Esq., vice president, senior counsel of Downey Savings and Loan Association

## Sheri Dando, CLA, Finds Perfect Combination In In-House Position



Sheri Dando, CLA, received her paralegal certificate from UC Irvine Extension in 2001. Her paralegal work experience includes 3 years in a traditional law firm environment in Washington, DC. When she moved to California, she worked 7 years as an in-house Intellectual Prop-

erty paralegal focusing on patent prosecution. When her workload began shrinking she started looking for other work opportunities.

By networking with OCPA members she found her perfect job - Manager of Legal Services for Applied Medical. She gets to straddle both litigation and transactional law. She assists corporate counsel, facilitates discovery with outside counsel, assists with employment and immigration issues, assists with budgeting and status reports.

While it took her a little over a year to find this position, it is her dream job.

## NALA Announces New CLA/CP Advanced Certification Program

NALA's CLA Specialty Program ("CLAS" designation) began in 1982 with exams designed to offer certification in a specialty area. Individuals awarded the CLA/CP designation could complete advanced courses in specialty practice areas, take the exam, and receive the professional designation of CLAS. The CLAS exams were four-hour written exams administered three times a year nationwide. To stay in step with the accelerating pace and evolving needs of the paralegal profession, NALA is shifting from the current exam-site testing program to a curriculum-based Internet learning and assessment process. The results of this transition to curriculum based certification is that the last administration of the CLA specialty examinations (CLAS), including the California Advanced Specialist programs (CAS), took place in July of 2005. Soon, advanced programs on Contracts Administration/Contracts Management, Discovery, and Business Organizations will begin. Paralegals who successfully complete an Advanced Certification Program will earn the APC designation. Up-to-date information can be found at [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org).



Paralegal Certificate Program Office  
P.O. Box 6050  
Irvine, CA 92616-6050  
949.824.5528

paralegal@unx.uci.edu

*Paralegal Post story ideas welcome. Please submit your ideas for future articles to paralegal @ unx.uci.edu*

Request for Certificate - All requests should be filled out when you are completing your final course. Please allow three to four weeks after grades are in for certificate processing. To request your certificate, complete a Request for Certificate form and return it to the Paralegal Program Office.

#### REMINDERS:

Certificate Requirements - Candidates for the certificate must be officially admitted into the program and complete a total of 30 units of instruction with a grade of "C" or above in all courses. Certificate candidates must complete the program within five years of taking their first course.



Free Career Counseling and Workshops Available - Paralegal certificate candidates (both men and women) are eligible for free career counseling and workshops through the Women's Opportunity Center. Call 949.824.7128.

Certificate Candidacy - Certificate candidates must apply for admission into the program before completing the third course in which they enroll - applications are available on the web.

All Paralegal Certificate Program forms are available online at:

[www.extension.uci.edu/courses/certificate/paralegal.asp](http://www.extension.uci.edu/courses/certificate/paralegal.asp)

## Winter 2006 Schedule Announced

- Legal Admissions Meeting  
Tues. 1/10/2006  
RSVP 949.824.5528
- Fundamentals of Legal Assistantship  
Tues. 1/10-3/14/2006
- Legal Research  
Mon. 1/9-3/20/2006  
(Holiday 1/16/2006 & Holiday 2/20/2006)
- Civil Litigation I  
Wed. 1/11-3/15/2006
- Civil Litigation III  
Mon. 1/9-3/20/2006  
(Holiday 1/16/2006 & Holiday 2/20/2006)



- Corporate Law  
Tues. 1/10-3/14/2006
- Family Law  
Wed. 1/4-3/8/2006
- Bankruptcy Law  
Tues. 1/10-3/14/2006
- Contracts  
Thurs. 1/5-3/9/2006
- Paralegal Internship  
Tues. 1/10; 2/14; 3/14/2006
- Ethics for the Legal Assistant  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.  
1/3-1/5/2006
- Torts  
Thurs. 1/5-3/9/2006