

# LAD News

A Publication of the NCBA's Legal Assistants Division

Vol. 1, No. 1 April 1998

## NCBA's Newest Division Off to a Running Start

**W**elcome to the North Carolina Bar Association's Legal Assistants Division. This is a very exciting time for North Carolina legal assistants, and I am delighted you have chosen to become a member.

The division was officially formed in January when over 100 members joined. To date, there are over 426 members with 389 members having joined an NCBA section. For statistics regarding legal assistant membership in NCBA sections, see page 2.

As you can see, membership response is outstanding, and I am confident that division membership will increase in great numbers in the years ahead. Please be sure to tell your colleagues about the new division and have them contact the NCBA for a membership application.

In an effort to move forward with division activities, a luncheon and organizational meeting are scheduled for Friday, May 15, at 12:30 p.m. at the Bar Center in Cary. Lunch will be provided from 12:30-1:30 p.m. with the organizational meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. We hope to conclude the meeting by 4 p.m.

During the organizational meeting,

### Acting Chair's Comments

By  
Sharon L. Wall, CLA

the chair and vice chair will be appointed by NCBA President Elizabeth "Betty" Quick. Rick Reich, a legal assistant with the Winston-Salem office of Kilpatrick Stockton, is currently serving as acting vice chair.

The division members will also elect officers (a secretary and treasurer) and 12 council members. Four members will serve a one-year term (ending June 1999); four members will serve two-year terms (ending June 2000); and four members will serve three-year terms (ending June 2001). Each year thereafter, we will elect four new members of the council to serve three-year terms. The purpose for this rotation is to ensure contiguity.

This is an excellent time for you to get involved and I hope you will consider serving in a leadership capacity. Attached to this newsletter is a "Recommendations

for Nominations" sheet for secretary, treasurer and council members. Please submit your recommendations by April 30.

The Nominations and Elections Committee will then consider all recommendations for nominations and will present its slate of candidates at the organizational meeting in May. The division bylaws do not allow for a proxy vote, so members will be elected by a majority of the members present.

Also enclosed is a response sheet requesting an RSVP by May 5 if attending the luncheon and organizational meeting. The response sheet also asks you to indicate your interest to serve on a committee. Presently, there are only four committees, but this will probably change as the year progresses.

Please also provide your suggestions for seminar topics you would like the Continuing Legal Education Committee to consider as well as newsworthy topics for the division's newsletter. The newsletter has not been assigned a permanent name, so we are asking for your suggestions to give the newsletter an upbeat, yet profes-

*Continued on page 2*

*Wall is a certified legal assistant with the Raleigh office of Lawyers Title of North Carolina Inc.*

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The division's **organizational meeting & lunch** will be held **Friday, May 15**, at the N.C. Bar Center in Cary. The program will begin with lunch at 12:30 p.m. and will run until approximately 4 p.m. The agenda for the meeting will include appointment of the division's chair and vice chair as well as the election of officers (secretary and treasurer) and council members. **For more information, see the enclosed response sheet.**

**PLUS:**

Make a note to attend a **special reception** for members of the new Legal Assistants Division at the **NCBA Annual Meeting** in Myrtle Beach, June 18-20. **Watch your mail for more information.**

# Acting Chair's Comments

Continued from page 1

sional title. All ideas will be considered. Lastly, attached is a copy of the division bylaws. Please become familiar with your bylaws.

Jane Weathers, director of section and division activities, is our liaison at the Bar Center. She will work with the division in an effort to assist us as we get oriented into "Bar Association life." Jane is a delightful person to work with, and I encourage you to meet Jane during upcoming meetings.

I am delighted the NCBA Board of Governors has welcomed legal assistants to the NCBA. The history behind creating the division is lengthy, to say the least, but NCBA President Betty Quick stated it best in her article in the January/February 1998 edition of *North Carolina Lawyer*:

*"... the division now has an opportunity to work together with the NCBA to address matters that are unique to the legal assistant profession."*

Bringing legal assistants into the NCBA as affiliates was not an easy task. Several years ago, this matter was considered and rejected by the NCBA. What changed? There were probably several factors: (1) a persistent, but well-presented, approach and request from the North Carolina Paralegal Association (NCPA); (2) the growing acceptance and recognition of the value of legal assistants in our practices; (3) the increase in the number of independent paralegals and the growing concern about the unauthorized practice of law; (4) a shared belief by the NCPA and many lawyers that there is a need to consider the regulation of legal assistants (which resulted in the NCPA itself forming its own Regulation Task Force); and (5) the excellent work of a committee chaired by Gray Wilson of Winston-Salem.

All of these factors combined to play an important role in the NCBA Board of Governors' allowing legal assistants to affiliate. I am grateful to the board for recognizing the value and importance of legal assistants, and to the NCPA for its perseverance in this endeavor.

As a division member, you will re-

ceive all general mailings and publications of the NCBA, including the division newsletter and the newsletters of any sections you might belong to. Other benefits include attending CLE programs at member cost and focusing on issues in your specialty area.

More importantly, however, the division now has an opportunity to work together with the NCBA to address matters that are unique to the legal assistant profession. Some of these issues might include educational standards and training procedures for legal assistants that would allow them to provide more efficient and effective services to attorneys. With better educational standards and training procedures for all legal assistants, this would address the growing concern of many attorneys regarding the unauthorized practice of law.

These ideas are just the tip of the iceberg as we embark on new and uncharted territory in the division. Now is your time to get involved and express your ideas for ways to enhance the legal assistant profession and to make this one of the most outstanding legal assistant divisions in the country. We've only just begun! ♦

## LAD MEMBERSHIP IN NCBA SECTIONS

As of April 1, 1998

Administrative Law .....	4
Antitrust & Trade Regulation .....	1
Bankruptcy Law .....	12
Business Law .....	30
Constitutional Rights .....	0
Construction Law .....	4
Corporate Counsel .....	22
Criminal Justice .....	9
Dispute Resolution .....	2
Education Law .....	1
Elder Law .....	2
Environmental Law .....	9
Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law ...	30
Family Law .....	35
General Practice, Solo, Sm. Firm .....	8
Health Law .....	8
Intellectual Property Law .....	13
International Law .....	1
Juvenile Justice .....	2
Labor & Employment .....	6
Law Practice Management .....	3
Litigation .....	103
Real Property .....	63
Tax .....	3
Workers' Compensation .....	18
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>389</b>






## Questions

About Membership in the NCBA's Legal Assistants Division

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# YLD

Newsletter

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**1997-98**

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Byron B. Kirkland

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**The 1998  
North Carolina  
Bar Association  
Annual Meeting**  
June 18-21 ❖ Myrtle Beach

*Featuring the Capitol Steps musical comedy/  
political satire troupe, as heard on National Public Radio.*

For more information, or to register, contact Sherry Oliver at the N.C. Bar Center  
at 1-800-662-7407 or (919) 677-0561. **Or, register online at [www.barlinc.org/anmtg98.html](http://www.barlinc.org/anmtg98.html)**

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