

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

Preferred mailing address: Home Work

Home Address: _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Area(s) of specialization: _____

Supervising Attorney _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Select one)

VOTING \$65 - By signing below, I hereby certify that I am currently employed as a paralegal as defined in WMPA's By-Laws.

NON-VOTING ASSOCIATE \$65

NON-VOTING STUDENT \$35 - I am currently enrolled at _____ and expect to graduate in _____.

NON-VOTING SUSTAINING \$75

Please indicate the committee(s) on which you would be interested in serving:

- Nominating Newsletter Pro Bono
 Membership Programs Bar Liaison
 Student Liaison Other _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return completed application with a check payable to WMPA, P.O. Box 15003, Springfield, MA 01115.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in WMPA is based on a calendar year beginning January 1st. Membership status is subject to review by the Board of Directors. All WMPA members are expected to read and abide by the WMPA Model Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which can be viewed on WMPA's Web site.

VOTING MEMBERSHIP \$65.00

Any person employed as a paralegal at the time of application or renewal. Voting members shall have the right to vote for election of officers and other matters of importance to WMPA, as well as the right to hold an elected office.

ASSOCIATE \$65.00

Any person who has been employed as a paralegal or has graduated from a paralegal training program and is not employed as a paralegal at the time of application or renewal. An associate member shall not be entitled to vote or hold office, but shall have all other privileges of voting membership.

STUDENT \$35.00

Any person enrolled in a paralegal training program or serving a paralegal internship at the time of application or renewal. A student member shall not be entitled to vote or hold office, but shall have all other privileges of voting membership.

SUSTAINING \$75.00

Open to all individuals or organizations concerned with the betterment of the paralegal profession. A sustaining member shall not be entitled to vote or hold office, but shall have all other privileges of voting membership.

Western Massachusetts Paralegal Association

The Professional Association for Paralegals in Western Massachusetts



**P.O. Box 15003
Springfield, MA 01115**

**www.wmassparalegal.org
westernmassachusetts@paralegals.org**

**Member of the National Federation of
Paralegal Associations
www.paralegals.org**

Western Massachusetts Paralegal Association, Inc.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

The Western Massachusetts Paralegal Association (WMPA) is a voluntary, nonprofit association formed in 1988 to promote the professional development and continuing education of paralegals in the Western Massachusetts area. The goals of the WMPA are:

- To promote high professional and ethical standards in the education, training and employment of paralegals.
- To serve as a source of educational information for members, the legal community and the general public.
- To provide opportunities for the mutual association of paralegals and paralegal students to promote the general professional interests of paralegals.

DEFINITION OF PARALEGAL

As defined in WMPA's by-laws, a paralegal/legal assistant is a person, qualified through education, training and/or work experience to perform substantive legal work that requires knowledge of legal concepts and procedures and who works under the supervision of an attorney or is authorized by administrative, statutory or court authority to perform this work. This person may be retained or employed by a lawyer, law office, governmental agency, corporation, or other entity.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

WMPA is a voting member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA), a national non-profit professional organization comprised of state and local paralegal associations. NFPA was founded in 1974 and currently represents thousands of paralegals. NFPA provides paralegal associations with information regarding issues affecting paralegals while presenting a unified voice for the profession on the national level. Every member of WMPA is a member of NFPA and receives NFPA's quarterly publication, The National Paralegal Reporter, in addition to receiving the benefits detailed at www.paralegals.org.

MEMBER SERVICES

- **Programs** - WMPA holds general membership meetings throughout the year for discussion and to present topics and speakers of professional interest. WMPA's annual meeting is held in April. WMPA also sponsors an annual dinner as well as holiday gatherings.
- **Continuing Education** - WMPA is a co-sponsor of all MCLE continuing education programs for paralegals. WMPA also sponsors its own educational programs for the benefit of its members.
- **Discounts** - In addition to discounts through NFPA, each WMPA member receives a discount on all WMPA/MCLE co-sponsored seminars, as well as a 10% discount on the Massachusetts Paralegal Practice Manual published by MCLE.

- **Exclusive Web Content** - With your membership in WMPA, you gain 24-7 access to archived issues of Paradocs, our exclusive Membership Directory, and our Job Bank on our Web site at www.wmassparalegal.org.
- **Publications** - Each member of WMPA receives its bi-monthly newsletter, Paradocs, which informs members of upcoming programs and seminars, policy matters, case law updates, and general reports on developments across the country. As a member of NFPA, you will receive their bi-monthly magazine, The National Paralegal Reporter.
- **Annual Survey** - WMPA conducts an annual survey to inform members of employment conditions, job responsibilities, salaries, and types of paralegal employers in Western Massachusetts.
- **NFPA** - Each WMPA member receives NFPA's bi-monthly magazine and has access to discounts on many products and services. Through NFPA, WMPA members also have access to continuing legal education and professional services. NFPA's Web site provides members with information about the paralegal profession and a wide variety of resources.

Who is looking out for your career as a paralegal?

Our affiliation with NFPA keeps you on top of legislation, case law, ethics, and court and bar association opinions affecting the paralegal profession.