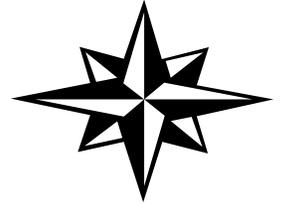


# SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISERS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**2007 Conference held in Durham and Chapel Hill with University of North Carolina and North Carolina Central Schools of Law**

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 27-29 and was co-hosted by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina Central University. The decision was the result of negotiating a more reasonable cost for both schools as they were both interested and sharing the cost made it more affordable for each. It is my understanding from Gerald Wilson that our decision to do host with an HBCU is something we have not done in the history of SAPLA so the organization is pleased North Carolina Central University School of Law was interested and willing to join us this year. We had a strong turnout and Conference attendance was 109 members. The law fair was extended as an event to all the local schools and the Pre-Law Students Association from NC State helped with the event. The student attendance was close to 75.

The Newsletter is under new leadership by Tyra Mason as our Editor so we are working to coordinate the offering of this material on a bi-annual basis.

The membership roster has been well maintained by our Secretary, Bekki Davis and each attendee at the conference joined the organization plus a couple who could not attend but whose membership was paid. We also have an updated roster that was very helpful at the conference.

Treasurer's Report from Michelle Rahman shows our budget numbers are:

- Balance - \$ \$69, 156.48
- Paid from account - \$1,000 PLANC dues for 2008

**National Conference 2008 – Mark YOUR calendars for OCTOBER 15-18 in Las Vegas**

Mary offered at the previous PLANC meeting to recruit law schools for the National Conference sessions on Mock Admissions. Would like to put into the record that I will continue with that recruitment activity.

**Members of SAPLA have again been active over the past year in a variety of ways:**

Gerald Wilson is working closely with NAPLA on their conference planning and has been in discussions about a possible joint conference with SAPLA in the future. The LSAC Forums in Washington, D.C. and in Atlanta once again had members from across the association available at the Pre Law Advisers table.

North Carolina held many very successful law fairs in November: University of North Carolina, NC State University, Davidson and Wake Forest. These schools are working well to create the best climate both for students and the law schools so each group is pleased with the results of the fairs. Next year we have found a conflict due to the National election so NC State will be joining Duke during the week of their Graduate Fair and UNC. Wake Forest and Davidson will host their events during the first week of No-

vember.

A North Carolina consortium is being maintained but this year we have only met once. NC State University, St. Augustine, Shaw University, Meredith College and Peace College to establish better communication between the schools regarding events and to work more closely to provide pre-law services to all of the students are continuing a dialogue and support for one another. The schools could not work together this year due to the timing of the CLEO's Super Saturday Event March 8 in Washington, D.C but plan to keep this effort going for next year.

They are also organizing so students will be able to attend events at the individual schools. (Mock Admissions, Showcase of NC Law Schools, Pre-Law Students Conference at NC State, Law School Fair scheduled for October 21, 2008).

Thank you to the leadership of Tyra Mason and Wendy Vonnegut who are attending PLANC with Gerald Wilson this spring.

My apologies to the SAPLA membership, if any other information pertinent to this report has been omitted, it will be added at a later date. This is the report for the PLANC Board respectfully submitted by,

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## SAPLA

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 3

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

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President

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Immediate Past President  
Assistant Editor, Newsletter

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Florida A&M University  
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Host Law School Rep

**Michael States**  
University of North Carolina  
Host Law School Rep

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## Credit Tips for Student Borrowers: Good Credit *Really* Counts



Never underestimate the value of good credit. For a Federal Plus Loan or private student loan, the lending institution or creditor probably will request a copy of your credit report from an authorized credit reporting agency. To be approved for Federal Plus Loans and most private student loans, you cannot have a record of adverse credit behavior.

Your credit report is derived from your credit history. Anyone who has at least one credit card, a consumer loan (such as an auto loan), student loans, or any other form of personal credit should have a credit history with an authorized credit reporting agency. Your credit history is generated from credit account information and payment records that have been reported by creditors by to credit reporting agencies. The historical information is used by credi-

tors to evaluate the likelihood that you'll repay a future or other credit they offer to you.

Another measure is used to evaluate how well you've managed your credit is credit scoring. A credit score is a numerical value that is used to predict the likelihood that an individual will repay a future loan on time. It is a measure of the risk of a potential borrower poses to a lender based on the credit account information in the individual's credit report. The higher your credit score, the greater the statistical likelihood that you'll repay a future loan on time. Factors that influence your credit score include:

- Promptness in paying bills
- Total debt
- Proportion of credit card balances to total available credit limit
- Age of credit accounts
- Number of credit accounts opened in the past 12 months
- Number of inquiries within the past 12 months because you've applied for credit

Although often a concern

for student loan borrowers, having multiple education loans or a significant amount of education loan debt does not necessarily mean you'll have a low credit score. People with education loan debt can score well, provided they have properly managed their credit.

Obtain a copy of your credit report from each of the three national credit reporting agencies at least once a year and review them for accuracy. You can obtain a free copy of our credit report from each of the three (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) credit reporting agencies at: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

**Dear Advisers - Are you already planning to attend the Atlanta Forum? If yes, then would you consider working with your colleagues at the LSAC Pre-Law Advisers Table at the event? If yes, please send an email to Mary A. Tetro, [mary\\_tetro@ncsu.edu](mailto:mary_tetro@ncsu.edu) put "SAPLA and Atlanta" in the subject and let me know when you could give some of your time, We need volunteers from 10am-4:00pm. We do this in 2-3 hour shifts so any time you could help would be greatly appreciated. Have two already but need at least three more.**

## NATIONAL PRE LAW ADVISORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 15 –18, 2008

### Conference Theme

The planning is well underway for the PLANC Fifth National Pre-Law Conference to be held in Las Vegas October 15-18, 2008. The theme of the conference is Advising the Millenials: High Tech, High Touch. We plan to address the challenges pre-law advisors face in advising a new generation of students whose familiarity and ease with electronic technologies affect how they gather and process information and plan their futures in law. We will explore how advising is evolving in an age of virtual tours, chat rooms, e-mail and informed, yet anxious potential applicants, as well as the differing expectations and approaches students, advisors, law school admissions

personnel bring to the process. How do we help tuned in "organization kids" to think meaningfully about the future of a career in law? The conference will combine panels on these subjects along with standard "nuts and bolts" sessions and workshops to benefit both new and experienced pre-law advisors. All primary advisors serving at an HBCU or HACU will be financially supported through LSAC. You may contact Glenn Bell at 215.968.1387 or by email at [gbell@Lsac.org](mailto:gbell@Lsac.org). If you have the funding for only one conference, this opportunity will provide a comprehensive experience for pre-law advisors nationwide.

### Conference Site

The conference will be held in the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas which is easily accessible by shuttle. Given the extremely reasonable rates we've secured, which extend for a night or two before and after the conference (depending on availability), you may want to combine the conference and a vacation. Conference program and registration materials are available at [www.planc.org](http://www.planc.org).



## SUMMER IN VERMONT

If you have not had the pleasure of attending law school then I suggest that you attend the Vermont Law School summer program. I received an email last year that the Vermont Law School was offering several scholarships for Pre-Law advisors to attend one of their summer sessions. I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship that paid for tuition. The expenses that I had to pay were transportation, room and board. It was a great experience;

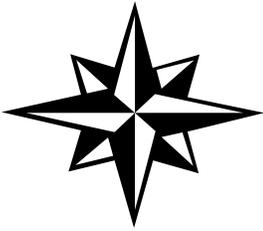
I enrolled in the Environmental Litigation class. I had forgotten what it was like to be a law school student, but I remember quickly the first day of class. The class is ten days long and meets everyday for several hours. Vermont Law School is located in the mountains of Vermont and it is just beautiful. The law school lists apartments that you can rent from students. I found a great studio apartment within walking distance from the law

school. It is a small town and there is not a lot to do, but it gives you time to study and to attend special sessions on different areas of Environmental law.

On weekends you can visit many great places in Vermont, I for one enjoyed the tour of the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory. The faculty and students at Vermont Law go out of their way to make you feel welcome. It is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn about law

school. Vermont Law School is one of the top law schools in the country for environmental law and after attending their summer class, I can understand why. I am excited about teaching environmental law in the fall with all the new information that I received during the summer. I recommend it to anyone.

Source: Wendy Vonnegut  
2nd Vice President  
SAPLA



**SAPLA**

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We're on the Web!

[www.ncsu.edu/prelaw/sapla](http://www.ncsu.edu/prelaw/sapla)

## SAPLA KUDOS 2007-08

We all work so hard at what we do but these are some of the things the group and individuals have accomplished over the past year:

- Provided advisor training workshops for Newcomers and Veterans at the conference
- Coordinated the fall conference with North Carolina Central and University of North Carolina in September. This is the first time we have had an HBCU as one of our sponsors.
- Worked with LSAC on the advisory committee to assess the web and other functions of their services
- Volunteered as advisers for the Law Forums in Washington, D.C and in Atlanta for the past two or three years
- Voted to extend the terms of our officers to two years to allow for professional growth and support of the organization

### 2008

- Summer CLEO Sophomore Insitutte

will take place in July 2008 at the University of North Carolina and North Carolina Central University

- Our former President Nyota Tucker has been promoted to serving in the Office of the President at Albany State University
- Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Wendy Vonnegut, Methodist University spent part of her summer at Vermont Law took class in Environmental Litigation course.
- Gerald Wilson serves on the Planning Board for the National Conference
- Book of Lists provided by Gerald Wilson and Ed Stern annually to all APLA's
- Handbook for Advisers created annually for SAPLA members
- Members presented at NAPLA and other conferences within the APLA's
- Coordinated a Consortium within North Carolina of the local HBCU's to

involve more Pre-Law advisers and students from the local schools in NC State campus events

- Inter-Institutional Law School Fair held annually at NC State is supported by SAPLA advisers working together to support the event and inviting all universities/colleges in the region/state to attend. Workshops are also held very similar to an LSAC forum.

New website created and opened in the fall 2007

This is the most current list of our Kudos and I am sure we have more...

Submitted  
Mary A. Tetro

