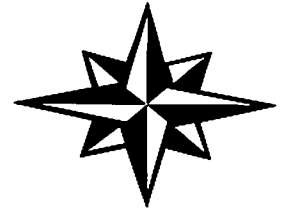


# SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF PRE-LAW ADVISERS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each spring and fall the Presidents of all the APLA's are invited to meet. The March meeting always takes place in Philadelphia and we then spend time with Anne Brandt and all the crew from LSAC in Newtown. During the fall the meeting is usually held at the conference of whichever APLA is hosting a conference. This fall the meeting will be held in San Antonio with SWAPLA.

Within most APLA's there is a Designated member who attends with the President and that role rotates. During the time that I have been President and for the past twenty or so years Gerald Wilson from Duke University has filled this role. Gerald's position has allowed SAPLA to maintain ongoing continuity on the PLANC Board and has offered that same historical perspective to the organization. We have, however, to develop a better understanding of how PLANC works, included the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Tyra Mason in this year's sessions so she can begin the process of being involved with the PLANC Board. Mel Hailey, Abilene Christian University, will be the new Chair for PLANC and Mary A. Tetro will be the Chair Elect.

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

- Paid from account – verifying that \$1,000 PLANC dues for 2009
- 38 members attended the conference from SAPLA – 2008 National Conference – Las Vegas

The membership roster has been well maintained by our Secretary, Bekki Davis and

those in attendance at the conference joined the organization plus a couple who could not attend but whose membership was paid. We have also an updated roster that was very helpful at the conference. The Newsletter leadership continues under our First Vice President, Tyra Mason, as the Editor and we are working to coordinate the offering of this material on a bi-annual basis. *This spring I apologize for not getting the newsletter out sooner and in the future you will see it twice.* The decision I have been wrestling with is how to send the letter and to whom. This spring in an attempt to both save paper and postage we may add the Newsletter to the website and then alert all of the Pre-Law Advisers (over 400 individuals who are within the SAPLA region) that the letter is on the web. Our membership for 2008-2009 dropped as the roster was created from those who attended the National Conference. In an attempt to broaden our reach and contacts for this year we may make the Newsletter available on the web and ask interested persons to join the association through that method.

We held a great business meeting during the National conference and shared information between advisers. One of our advisers was willing to write about her first experience at a National Conference for the spring newsletter. Other conversations within and outside the business meeting regarded the desire to have the next conference in a city with more law schools available to visit.

The president and Pre-Law advisers from a variety of schools were invited to visit Tulane. During this visit the subject of the National conference came up and it was again confirmed that many Pre-Law advisers would like the next National Conference to offer the possibility of visiting schools as a criteria for the site. Many, in fact, most advisers have fewer opportunities to visit a number of schools so this has become an important feature to be included, as it was in 2004, to the conference agenda discussion.

### Funding to assist Pre-Law Advisers:

It was confirmed again that SAPLA has a resource of \$250.00 toward support funding for advisers from the HBCU's and HACU's to attend conferences. Since the process on how to support these requests and how many can be funded is not documented the officers will coordinate that effort to be in place for the 2010 conference.

### 2010 CONFERENCE PLANS

- SAPLA and NAPLA are planning our JOINT Conference for 2010 - This is confirmed for 2010 to be hosted by Duke Law School, in Durham, NC. All registration information for the conference will be posted on the website in the fall. Dates will be added this summer.

There is some thought to an early arrival so attendees will be able to visit other NC Schools within the State, Wake

## SAPLA

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 1

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

- Mary Alice Tetro**  
North Carolina State University  
President
- Sharon "Nyota" Tucker**  
Albany State University  
Immediate Past President  
Assistant Editor, Newsletter
- Tyra R. Mason**  
Florida A&M University  
1st Vice President  
Managing Editor Newsletter
- Wendy Vonnegut**  
Methodist University  
2nd Vice President
- Michelle Rahman**  
University of Richmond  
Treasurer
- Bekki Davis**  
Georgia Southern University  
Secretary
- Peter Wubbenhorst**  
St. Leo University  
Representative at Large
- Gerald L. Wilson**  
Duke University  
PLANC Representative
- Mary Alice Tetro**  
North Carolina State University  
Web Person

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## A Newcomers Perspective at Pre Law Advisors National Conference (PLANC)



I am not one who often jumps at an opportunity to attend a conference; but something about the PLANC Fifth National Pre-Law Conference notice really piqued my interest and curiosity and it wasn't Las Vegas, believe it or not! I also rarely am drawn to attend meetings where I have reason to believe that I will not know anyone (sounding a bit dull, am I?).

But a national training for pre-law advisors held only once every five years sounded like it had to be a major event, and as a relative newcomer to pre-law advising, I had areas of uncertainty and inexperience in which I would welcome enlightenment and perspective.

So I checked with academic advising to be sure I'd still be in this position for the next year or two before committing the budget even though it was abundantly clear that the conference was a real bargain. That done, I registered and began to anticipate the event. A week or two later at the Atlanta Law Forum ad-

vising table, I sat with Rodia Vance and Mary Alice Tetro so then I knew one person going and had met another - things were looking up!

An Atlanta friend said I simply had to plan to see "O" since it plays nowhere else. She assured me that, even though very expensive, it was awesome. So on-line to buy one ticket and not worry about the how to get there and possibly with whom. Thanks to the planners for the Thursday evening off! I emailed Rodia what I had done and she said that Thursday was her birthday and she was thinking about going so we were two. Our ranks swelled to five by the time the evening came and we had an incredible time at an amazing performance. You may even see pictures of us behind "O" masks in a SAPLA or PLANC newsletter!

But back to the reason for being in Las Vegas. What a program! I believe every question I had was addressed in one session or another. The only trouble was not being able to attend every one. From the opening session for new pre-law advisors through the nine other workshops I attended, presenters were informed, prepared, helpful and stayed on topic and time (amazing). The sessions I attended included For-Profit Pre-Law Advising, Joint Degree Programs, Show Them the Money, Mock Admissions,

Pre-Law for International Students, Age of Admissions/Millennials, Underrepresented Minority/LSAT Support, Pre-Law at Small Colleges/Universities and Disclosure Issues. The Law School Fair was a wonderful opportunity to speak to recruiters without being conscious of students' needs to speak with them at the forums! Thanks to Anne Brandt for answering questions I had about accessing LSAC. The printed programs and directories are invaluable. And, finally, if I am fortunate enough to still be pre-law advising five years from now, I'll know a lot of people attending and will feel like an "old" advisor!

*Submitted by Gail L. Bell, Ph.D.  
Associate Director of Career Planning  
Agnes Scott College*

Dear Advisers:

Are you already planning to attend the Miami Forum September 12, 2009 or the Atlanta Forum October 23-24, 2009?

If yes, then would you consider working with your colleagues at the LSAC Pre-Law Advisers Table at the events?

If yes, for the Miami event please send an email to Tyra Mason [tyra.mason@famu.edu](mailto:tyra.mason@famu.edu) put "SAPLA and Miami" in the subject with your availability. For Atlanta email Mary A. Tetro, [mary\\_tetro@ncsu.edu](mailto:mary_tetro@ncsu.edu) put "SAPLA and Atlanta" in the subject and let her know your availability. We need volunteers from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. We advise in 2-3 hour shifts so any time you could help would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks! Mary & Tyra

## GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL DAY AND LAW SCHOOL FAIR EVENTS

Due to the request of many Law Schools and in support of the request by LSAC all Graduate and Law Fair plans should be registered with the Law School Admissions Council Recruitment calendar. Felicia Williams is the contact for these events at LSAC. You may contact her at [fwilliams@lsac.org](mailto:fwilliams@lsac.org).

It was stated by law schools at the Recruitment Sub-Committee meeting at the National Conference last fall that many law schools are under travel restraints and although they would like to participate in a number of these events the law schools are looking to the recruitment calendar to determine their travel and recruitment plans for the fall.

All schools making plans for their event should check with other schools in your area to determine dates and to avoid creating time

and event conflicts throughout the regions.

If the Law Day or Professional Day for Law Schools is coordinated by another office (i.e., Career Services, etc.) please notify those offices regarding this information.

### 2009 Forums

#### Washington, DC

Saturday, June 27

10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Marriott Wardman  
Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road, NW

#### Miami, FL

Saturday, September 12

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Miami  
400 SE Second Avenue

#### New York, NY

Friday, October 9

noon–5:00 PM

Saturday, October 10

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Hilton New York  
1335 Avenue of the Americas

#### Boston, MA

Monday, October 12

2:00 PM–7:00 PM

Boston Marriott Copley Place  
110 Huntington Avenue

#### Chicago, IL

Saturday, October 17

10:00 AM–5:00 PM

Hyatt Regency  
McCormick Place  
2233 S. Martin Luther King  
Drive

#### Atlanta, GA

Friday, October 23

noon–5:00 PM

Saturday, October 24

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
265 Peachtree Street, NE



## DISCOVERLAW.ORG CAMPAIGN TARGETS DIVERSE EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

DiscoverLaw.org is an intensive, integrated campaign designed to encourage racially and ethnically diverse first- and second-year college students to discover career opportunities in law and to choose a path in undergraduate school that helps them get there.

The cornerstone of the *DiscoverLaw.org* campaign is [www.DiscoverLaw.org](http://www.DiscoverLaw.org), which features examples of the need for lawyers worldwide, access to law school experts who can answer students'

questions, profiles and advice from diverse law school graduates, and a timeline outlining steps undergraduate students can take to prepare themselves to be a successful law school applicant.

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) is dedicated to the idea that the legal profession must reflect the expanding diversity of our society. That's why LSAC developed the DiscoverLaw.org campaign – to encourage racially and ethnically diverse students to discover career opportunities

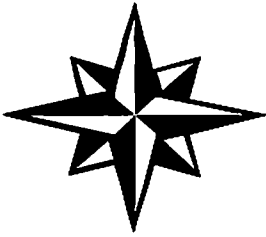
in law and choose a path in undergraduate school to help them succeed.

With access to experts, inspiring stories about law school graduates, a list of the most frequently asked questions, and more, DiscoverLaw.org provides students with resources, tips, and tools on how to become a competitive law school applicant.

DiscoverLaw.org is being promoted to undergraduate students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds nationwide through online and print advertising.

Campuses across the country are encouraged to take advantage of the campaign's many resources and materials. Also, a few schools in Albuquerque, NM; Los Angeles; Houston; and Raleigh-Durham/Chapel Hill, NC, will have DiscoverLaw.org Campus Coordinators to plan special events and activities on campuses.

Source: LSAC.org &  
DiscoverLaw.org



Pre Professional Law Program  
Florida A&M University  
112 Tucker Hall  
515 Orr Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

**SAPLA**

We're on the Web!

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

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and in Atlanta once again had members from across the association available at the Pre Law Advisers table.

- This year we had fewer volunteers confirmed so SAPLA financially assisted three people in Atlanta
- This past year a number of very successful law fairs were hosted throughout the SAPLA region. Within North Carolina these events were held in October and November at University of North Carolina, NC State University, UNC Wilmington, Davidson and Wake Forest. All SAPLA schools are working hard to create the best climate both for students and the law schools so each group will want to return for the event. Due to the National Election, this year we had to alter some of the fairs to an earlier date resulting in conflicts due to three states having fairs at the same time.
  - The conflict of schedules and funding for some schools caused the fair to offer fewer schools attending the fair at NC State.
  - This same week law schools were also scheduled for events in Florida

LSAC has since created a committee to review Recruitment schedules. This group will be meeting after PLANC in Las Vegas and is comprised of a Law School representative from each APLA region and a member of each APLA. In our case the President attended

- A North Carolina consortium is being maintained and met once this year. 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 were unable to coordinate the CLEO trip this year due to spring break schedules, but plan to try and 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, Diversity in the Legal Profession – Mecklenberg Bar Association, Charlotte NC., 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 last 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,

Mary A. Tetro, President, SAPLA  
University Coordinator of Pre-Law Services/  
Academic Adviser  
Office of Advising Support,  
Information and Services  
(OASIS)  
Division of Undergraduate  
Academic Programs  
North Carolina State University  
[mary\\_tetro@ncsu.edu](mailto:mary_tetro@ncsu.edu)