



# ***SMPA TODAY***

*Monthly e-publication of the Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association*

August 2007

[www.smparalegal.org](http://www.smparalegal.org)

## **MEETING REMINDER**

### **The Time Has Finally Come!**

The next meeting of the Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association will be on Thursday, August 9, 2007 in the **Main Conference Room of the U.S. Attorney's Office**. We will have a short introduction of attendees just a few minutes before noon. The CLE portion of the meeting will be from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. The speaker Sidney Gilreath, Esq. of Gilreath & Associates will present *Toxic Tort Litigation*.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is located in the West corner (Main Street entrance) of the Howard Baker U.S. Federal Courthouse (which is across from the City-County Building).

Our meeting will be held on the 2nd floor in the Main Conference Room. When entering the building, you will first go through security. Then, inform the Federal Officers that you are going to the SMPA meeting in the Main Conference Room, so that the officer can enter the correct security code for the elevator (the elevator does not stop on the 2nd floor without the correct code).

The meeting will be catered by Courthouse Café. We will have a buffet set up outside our meeting room that will include a meat, two vegetables, bread, a dessert and drink for \$10.00 per person.

As usual, a table will be set up to sign-in, get your nametag and pay for the buffet.

We will need to give a firm count of attendees to Courthouse Café on the Friday before our meeting. Therefore, if everyone attending the meeting could please respond to [president@smparalegal.org](mailto:president@smparalegal.org) by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, August 3, 2007, and let me know that you will be attending and whether or not you will be eating, it would be greatly appreciated. As always, we understand that plans change, but will need to give as close a count as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all at our new meeting place!



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DECLARATIONS FOR OFFICE**

Any active member of SMPA in good standing is eligible to run for an office in the association. Declaration for Office forms can be found in the members section of website at [www.smparalegal.org](http://www.smparalegal.org) or in the last edition of The Liaison. Completed Declaration for Office forms should be mailed to the SMPA Secretary no later than September 1, 2007. Holding an officer position is an excellent way to show support for your association!

## **SALARY SURVEY**

Since becoming President of SMPA, I have visited several classes at our sustaining member schools and spoke to both students and educators. I have also communicated with many potential employers that wanted to make use of SMPA's job bank. I have talked to a variety of paralegals either looking for a job or wanting to change jobs. They all have one common question. What is the average salary in the East Tennessee market??

That is a tough question! And I've never been able to give anyone a pinpoint answer. My answer has always been, "Well, it depends." And it does. It depends on experience and education. It depends on the area of law and the size of the firm or company. Sometimes it even depends on whether the potential employee has that special chemistry that the employer is searching for. There are so many factors. I've always tried to direct any salary inquiries to the available national surveys that I'm aware of, but that doesn't really represent our local market. It's time for that to change!

SMPA will now offer an annual salary survey. The survey will go out to all SMPA members in early August of each year. The completed surveys are to be returned by the end of October. The completed surveys will be completely anonymous. The salary survey results will be published in the first edition of The Liaison the following year and also included in the Members' area of our website.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find the Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association 2007 Salary Survey. I have two goals for this survey. The first is that it eventually becomes a prominent tool in the East Tennessee paralegal job market. Realizing that goal largely depends on the second goal, which is to have at least 100 responses to the survey each year. I believe 100 respondents would give us a good sampling of the local job market. That's about 73% of our total membership! It's a big goal, but I think we can do it!!



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I ask that each member print the attached Salary Survey and complete. For each question, check all boxes that apply. DO NOT include your name on the survey. Mail the completed survey to:

Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association  
Attention: Salary Survey  
Post Office Box 445  
Knoxville, TN 37901

Please mail so that the completed survey will be received before October 31, 2007. Thank you all for your participation!

Sincerely,

Tracie L. Livesay, ACP  
SMPA President