

Michigan Paralegal News – October 2022

**2022 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**



Left to Right: Dominic Vincenti, Lisa Anderson, Melvenna Fant-Jones, Laura Traud, Marianne Delany, Denise Gau, Lizzy Sailor, Pattie Allerton, Teresa Duddles, Davena Shute, Michelle Rachmaninow, Michelle Dewey, Kathy Munoz, Natalie Walter







(Left to Right) Davena Shute, Lizzy Sailor, Dominic Vincenti and Melvenna Fant-Jones being sworn in as Members of the 2022-2023 Council.



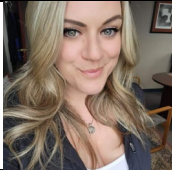









Dominic Vincenti being awarded 2022 Paralegal of Year by Council Member Melvanna Fant-Jones Congratulations Dominic!



Pictured is Dominic Vincenti, new Council Member and Treasurer, and Professional Life Coach and Paralegal, Kathy Munoz who presented a workshop on professional development.

## 2022-2023 SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Council

Michelle Rachmaninow		Chair
Lizzy Sailor		Chair Elect
Dominic Vincenti		Treasurer
Natalie Walter		Secretary

Melvenna Fant-Jones		Council Member
Davena Shute		Council Member
Laura Traud		Council Member
Michelle Dewey		Council Member

We would like to extend our deepest thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Council members who have worked tirelessly to improve the development and recognition of our profession:

**Marianne Delaney (outgoing Treasurer):**

I have been a member of the Council for 20 years and served as Chair and Treasurer. I loved being part of an organization in which we automatically supported each other because we had a common bond; we cared about our profession and trying to make it better. You need to “invest in yourself.” You need to always “dream big, believe in yourself, take opportunities when they present themselves, understand that your time is now, and that you need to make your world large.” Now, you may be asking yourself, “What does all of this have to do with me?” The answer is simple: put yourself out there and you will reap the rewards. “How can I put myself out there?” you may be asking, and my response is, “Get involved!” Get involved with things that you are passionate about. If you are passionate about this profession or think that it is time for this council to go in a new direction, you have a great opportunity to become a member of the council and add your input.

**Patti Allerton (Outgoing Council Member):**

I joined the Council in September 2018 after having been involved with the Oakland County Bar Association Paralegal Committee, of which I had been Vice Chair and Chair. When I joined Council, initially I was elected as the Secretary and also the Communications Chair where it was my goal to reinvigorate the publication of the Michigan Paralegal. In January 2019, we published the first issue of the Michigan



Paralegal which was redesigned and contained articles from many Council members. It was our goal as Council to communicate with our Members and to provide information for the many benefits and activities of the Council. As an outgoing Council member, I want to thank all of the leaders who have dedicated their time and energy to the Paralegal Section, promoting the paralegal profession, and providing opportunities for like-minded individuals to connect, grow and develop. I encourage new and old members to attend Section events, participate in community service programs, contribute articles to the Michigan Paralegal, attend the Day of Education and even join Council. You will benefit personally and professionally by your involvement in Section activities, providing you with opportunities to meet other paralegals, and becoming a leader in the community and in the Section.

### **Teresa Duddles (Outgoing Council Member):**

It was years and years ago that I was asked to step up and serve on the Council, and did so as Secretary, Chair-Elect, Chair, Ex-Officio, Amendment Chair, Annual Meeting Chair, and Membership Chair over those years. It was both challenging and enjoyable to spend the years with a varying group of truly smart, energetic, and wonderful people. It is YOU, the Membership, that make a difference. You are Members of an awesome Section which can become even better with more Member involvement. Go to an event. Network. Share a story. Get out there. Social gatherings and in-person seminars beat the heck out of online seminars. Don't get stuck in the screen world.

### **MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **2023 DAY OF EDUCATION** – The SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Council is already hard at work planning the 2023 Day of Education. The last few years have proven difficult for event planning for all of us, and we are dedicated to holding a great event for our Section in 2023! **Please take this VERY short [survey](#) to help us organize an event that you would like to attend and tell us what you would like to see!**
- **ANNUAL DUES** – The State Bar of Michigan will be increasing membership dues in 2023. We will continue to update you as information becomes available.

*If you would like to be a contributor to the Michigan Paralegal News, please email Laura Traud, Chair of the Michigan Paralegal Section Newsletter Committee, at [laura.traud@outlook.com](mailto:laura.traud@outlook.com) for more information.*