

NFPA 2022 JOINT CONFERENCE
CERTIFICATION CONFERENCE AGENDA
 THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

TIME (CDT)	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Welcome and Remarks	Lisa Vessels, RP®, CP <i>NFPA Director of Paralegal Certification</i>
9:05 – 10:00 AM	Overcoming Test Anxiety <i>How to prepare for the exam and avoid anxiety</i>	Yvonne DeAntoneo <i>NFPA Director of Membership</i>
10:00 – 10:15 AM	<i>Break – stretch your legs, rest your eyes, or chat with attendees</i>	
10:15 – 10:45 AM	Getting Employers to Support Certification in your Office	Robyn Sweet, ACP, RP®, CRP <i>Secondary, Vermont Paralegal Organization NFPA Certification Auditor</i>
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Making Alphabet Soup: Establishing a Credentialing Program	Maren Schroeder, RP®, MnCP <i>NFPA Director of Positions and Issues</i>
11:45 – 12:15 PM	<i>Break – grab lunch, stretch your legs, network with other attendees</i>	
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Panel: Marketing the Exams to employers, lawyers, judges, paralegals, and students	Facilitated by Robyn Sweet, ACP, RP®, CRP <i>Secondary, Vermont Paralegal Organization NFPA Certification Auditor</i>
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Certification Ambassador Bootcamp	Robyn Sweet, ACP, RP®, CRP <i>Secondary, Vermont Paralegal Organization NFPA Certification Auditor</i>
2:15 – 2:30 PM	<i>Break - stretch your legs, rest your eyes, or chat with attendees</i>	
2:30 – 3:30 PM	The Basics of RP® and CRP Exams <i>Overview of the eligibility and content, how to maintain credential</i>	Tina Johnson, RP® <i>Minnesota Paralegal Association</i>
3:30 – 4:30 PM	I'm credentialed. Now what? <i>Tips on marketing your new credential, providing advice to newly-credentialed individuals, updating your resume, ultimate interview strategies, social media, hashtags, newsletters, and so much more!</i>	Robyn Sweet, ACP, RP®, CRP <i>Secondary, Vermont Paralegal Organization NFPA Certification Auditor</i>
4:30 – 4:40 PM	Closing Remarks	Lisa Vessels, RP®, CP <i>NFPA Director of Paralegal Certification</i>

NFPA reserves the right to change the agenda based on speaker availability

Speakers



Yvonne Lewis DeAntoneo
Director of Membership, NFPA

Yvonne Lewis DeAntoneo is the NFPA Vice President and Director of Membership. She is responsible for guiding NFPA in attracting and retaining members.

Yvonne Lewis DeAntoneo has been a paralegal, specializing in litigation, since 1988. She began her career in personal injury. Since then, she has also worked in medical malpractice, nursing home defense, mass torts (including medical device litigation, asbestos and tobacco litigation), and nursing home defense. Yvonne has been working in house for various insurance companies for the last twelve years. She is currently a paralegal with State Farm where she works for their local in-house branch, Missie Hendry & Associates, based out of St. Petersburg, Florida.

This is Yvonne's second time wearing the membership hat for NFPA. She previously served as the Vice President and Director of Membership from 2015 to 2019. Prior to that role, Yvonne served as the Region III Director from 2013 until 2015.

In addition to serving on the local board, Yvonne has held various leadership roles with the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association. She was a founding member and the first President of the TBPA upon its formation in 2019.

Yvonne received her Associates in Science in Paralegal Studies from her local college, St. Petersburg College. She continued her education at the University of South Florida and received a Bachelor of Art in English and American Literature.

Personally, Yvonne is the mother of two beautiful teenage girls who fill her life with a lot of love, laughter, joy and a tad bit of worry. When not working or volunteering, Yvonne enjoys spending time with family and friends or reading.



Tina Johnson, RP®
Certification Ambassador, Minnesota Paralegal Association

Tina M. Johnson is a PACE® Registered Paralegal with Kennedy & Ruhsam Law Office, P.A. in Eagan, Minnesota, and has over 20 years of experience assisting with all aspects of estate and trust administrations, including drafting probate documents, transferring assets, preparing annual accountings, as well as preparing and filing estate tax and fiduciary income tax returns. She is Certification Ambassador Chair for the Minnesota Paralegal Association. In 2020, Ms. Johnson received the MPA Barb Peppersack Lifetime Service award for her dedication, leadership, and years of experience as a paralegal.



Maren Schroeder, MBA, RP®, MnCP

*Member, Standing Committee for the Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project
Director of Positions & Issues, NFPA*

Maren Schroeder, MBA, RP®, MnCP is a PACE Registered and Minnesota Certified paralegal born and raised in Stewartville, Minnesota. She has an undergraduate degree in Paralegal Studies and an MBA with an emphasis in legal administration. Schroeder has experience in intellectual property, civil litigation, family law, criminal defense, non-profit organization, and complex bankruptcy matters. She provides virtual freelance paralegal services for attorneys throughout the United States, and is the Policy Director of Sensible Change Minnesota, working on medical cannabis access and opioid overdose prevention measures at the Minnesota legislature.

Ms. Schroeder is the current Director of Positions & Issues for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc., and previously served seven years on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Paralegal Association (MPA) most recently as the Director of Positions and Issues. Passionate about access to justice, she previously served on the Minnesota State Bar Association Task Force on Alternative Legal Models from 2015-2017 and the Minnesota Supreme Court Implementation Committee for the Legal Paraprofessional Practice Pilot Project from 2019-2020; and was appointed to the Minnesota Standing Committee for the Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project in December 2020. Ms. Schroeder is the recipient of several awards including the 2020 NFPA Justice Champion Award, the inaugural Minnesota Cannabis Culture Award for Medical Cannabis Advocacy, and the 2016 Outstanding Paralegal of the Year Award from the Minnesota Paralegal Association.

Ms. Schroeder has served on the Stewartville Planning & Zoning Commission since 2013, serving as Chair from 2016-2017, and was a member of the Task Force that developed the City's dog park. She also volunteers her time as a civil and family mediator for Mediation and Conflict Solutions, a sexual assault crisis advocate for Victim Services of Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted Counties, and is an appointee to the Minnesota Taskforce on Medical Cannabis Therapeutic Research.



Nita Serrano, ACP, RP®, AACP, FRP

Board Advisor, NFPA

Nita Serrano, ACP, RP®, FRP, AACP, is a Litigation Paralegal in Tampa, Florida working in the area General Casualty handling all aspects of cases from case inception through trial preparation and participation. Nita has been a paralegal for most of her adult life, four of those years as a freelance paralegal. Nita specializes in the areas of civil litigation, insurance defense, medical malpractice, personal injury, nursing home, general negligence, criminal and family law. Nita is also a Florida Notary Public and Florida Remote Online Notary Public.

Nita earned her Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from Florida Metropolitan University in 2000, her designation as a PACE Registered Paralegal (RP®) from the National Federation of Paralegal Associations in March, 2007; her

designation as an American Alliance Certified Paralegal (ACCP) from the American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc. in September, 2019, Florida Registered Paralegal in May, 2020, National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) Certified Paralegal (CP) in October, 2020 and NALA Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) in Trial Practice in October, 2020.

Nita has been a member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) since 2005. She is currently serving as Board Advisor for the NFPA Board of Directors. She served as NFPA President from 2018-2020; as well as two terms as the Vice President & Director of Paralegal Certification 2014-2018. Nita has been a member of the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association, Inc. (TBPA) since 2006, and has served various leadership roles including, Director, Second Vice President, President Elect, President and Board Advisor. She was TBPA's first Paralegal Certification Ambassador. Nita has been a member of the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("FAPA") since 2013, and served as President in 2014. Nita has been a member of National Association of Legal Assistants ("NALA") since 2020. Nita has also served on the Hillsborough Community College, Paralegal Advisory Board since 2010 and served on Keiser University's Paralegal Advisory Board from 2011-2020.

Nita has been a volunteer with Wills for Heroes, Dress for Success, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, for several years. She is also Master Guardian ad Litem for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Florida representing the best interests of children in dependency and foster care and mentoring new Guardians ad Litem.

Away from work, Nita can usually be found reading, spending time with her family and their furry family members, two Yorkshire Terriers and three cats.



Robyn Sweet, ACP, RP®, CRP

*Secondary, Vermont Paralegal Organization
NFPA Certification Auditor*

Robyn is a litigation paralegal with Cleary Shahi & Aicher, PC and has been with that firm for over 11 years. She usually attends depositions with her attorney and assists with the management of exhibits, including during virtual depositions.

Robyn obtained her CORE Registered Paralegal designation in October of 2016 through NFPA. She also graduated from Community College of Vermont with an Associates in Business in December of 2019 after which she obtained her PACE Registered Paralegal designation through NFPA in October of 2020. She then graduated from Northern Vermont University in May of 2021, and she also obtained her Advanced Certified Paralegal designation in e-Discovery through NALA in October of 2021.

She has been a member of the VPO since 2013 and has served on the VPO Board in the capacity of Membership Chair as well as presently the NFPA Secondary. She has also served the NFPA Board as Certification Auditor (presently), Marketing Coordinator (2016-2018) and Advertising Coordinator (2018-2019).