

**LEGAL EDUCATION
SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

Legal education workshops, seminars, and professional courses are offered by the local, state, and national associations.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year VALS presents a scholarship to a student based on need, ambition, and merit for the purpose of furthering his/her education in the legal field.

CODE OF ETHICS

Members of NALS are bound by the standards of conduct required of the legal profession. Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information;
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy;
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence; and
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment.

NALS MISSION STATEMENT

NALS is dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contributions of members in the legal services profession. It accomplishes its mission and supports the public interest through:

- Continuing legal education and resource materials;
- Networking opportunities at the local, state, and national levels;
- Commitment to a Code of Ethics and professional standards; and
- Professional Certification programs and designations.

ORGANIZATION

VALS was organized in 1962 and has local associations throughout Virginia with a membership of approximately 120 persons engaged in work of a legal nature.

VALS, which is affiliated with NALS, is nonunion, nonpartisan, nonpolitical, and nonprofit.

ADMINISTRATION

VALS functions through its administrative body, the Board of Governors, which is composed of a representative from each local association and the elected and appointed officers of VALS.

The Board of Governors meets three times each year with the annual meeting held in the spring.

HISTORY

The history of the local, state, and national associations is a record of vision, faith, and courage of the members. No one person can claim credit, but each member can be proud he or she has played a part in the organization and progress. Continued growth during the past years is a prelude to a more prosperous and productive future and YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A PART OF THAT FUTURE!

For information regarding membership or the formation of an association in your area, **please contact:**

Caroline R. Adler, PP, PLS
VALS Vice President/Membership Chair
Poole Brooke Plumlee PC
4705 Columbus Street, Suite 100
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-6749
(757) 552-6045 — Work
(757) 552-6016 — Fax
[**cadler@pbp-attorneys.com**](mailto:cadler@pbp-attorneys.com)

A look at VALS . . .
the association for legal professionals



VALS...*the association for legal professionals* is organized for the purpose of providing education to those engaged in the legal services profession. Its mission is achieved by promoting the ethical conduct of its members by sponsoring programs on continuing legal education and professionalism within the Commonwealth of Virginia and through its continued commitment to the NALS Code of Ethics.

CHAPTER LOCATIONS

Charlottesville-Albemarle
Fredericksburg
New River Valley
Hampton Roads
Northern Virginia
Prince William County
Richmond
Roanoke Valley
Members-at-Large

Visit VALS website: [**www.v-a-l-s.org**](http://www.v-a-l-s.org)

PURPOSES

- To unite into a state association the local associations of **VALS** chartered by and affiliated with **NALS**;
- To stimulate a high order of professional standards and ethics among its members;
- To advance the education of its members;
- To organize additional local associations in Virginia;
- To assist chapters of VALS to stabilize and increase membership;
- To cooperate with and assist attorneys, judges, bar associations, and their affiliates; and
- To establish good fellowship among its members.

DUES

Per capita dues are set by the local, state, and national associations.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Local associations meet monthly. Guest speakers present programs of particular interest to persons engaged in work of a legal nature. Business of the association is conducted at this time.

Membership is open to persons licensed to practice law or employed by a law firm, any person employed in the court, the trust department of banks or trust companies, or in any public or private institution or office directly engaged in work of a legal nature, including the public offices of the government, state, cities, or counties.

Membership in a local association offers many advantages, including:

- the opportunity to become more proficient in the legal profession;
- the advice and counsel of members who are experienced in specialized areas of legal procedures;

- furthering a closer cooperation between law offices and others with whom contact is made; and
- developing friendships with others sharing an interest in the legal field.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Membership at large is available to individuals meeting the qualifications for active membership and who are located in an area in which there is no existing local association.

NALS

NALS was organized in 1949 and chartered in August 1950 under the laws of the State of California. There are approximately 5,000 members of **NALS** throughout the United States and Canada.

All members in good standing of a local association and **VALS** are members of **NALS**.

NALS is the trendsetter for providing information and education through its worldwide partnership with all related professional associations.

PUBLICATIONS

NALS @LAW, a quarterly publication, **NALS News & Industry Views**, an email resource providing weekly news briefings of top stories related to the legal services industry, **e-Learn @NALS**, a bi-monthly publication and, **the NALS Docket** an electronic magazine, sent monthly to **NALS** membership. They contain educational articles, announcements of activities, events and deadlines, and many other items of interest to persons engaged in work of a legal nature.

THE **VALS NEWS**, a state publication, distributed three times a year to all members, is the counterpart of **NALS @LAW**.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

NALS has developed three comprehensive examinations for professional certification.

The **ALP** —a Basic Certification for Legal Professionals designed for individuals at the apprentice level, and consists of an examination covering three areas: Written Communications; Office Procedures and Legal Knowledge; and Ethics, Human Relations, and Judgment.

The **PLS** or **CLP** — an Advanced Certification for Legal Professionals designed for those persons having three or more years legal experience, and consists of a comprehensive examination covering all phases of legal work. Its purpose is to measure knowledge, skills and techniques necessary for a person to qualify for a position in any law office in the country.

Professional Paralegal Certification (“PP”) (trademark pending) – Established in 2004, the Professional Paralegal certification is an attainable goal for paralegals who wish to be identified as exceptional in all areas of the law. Successful completion of the PP exam demonstrates a mastery of skills and working knowledge of substantive law.

All three exams are given three times a year at testing centers designated by **NALS**. All examinations offer incentives and means by which a legal secretary or paralegal can attain a professional rating, and furnish the legal profession with a recognizable measure of legal proficiency. Information is available through local chapters, any officer of **VALS**, or at www.nals.org.