

## Who We Are

The Miami-Dade Legal Support Association (MDLSA) is a local chapter of a bi-level organization consisting of legal professionals. Our members may be legal secretaries, legal assistants, paralegals, and anyone employed in the legal department of a company; our membership is open to anyone in the legal field.

## What We Do

The objectives of our Association are:

- To unite all persons employed in work of a legal nature, so that ideas may be exchanged and knowledge increased;
- To further our members' knowledge of the law, to stimulate a high order of business and professional attainment;
- To create a high standard of ethics among our members;
- To assist and support selected local charitable organizations; and
- To further the interests of members through the Florida Association of Legal Support Specialists (FALSS) and assist FALSS in achieving their objectives.

## Membership Benefits

As a member of our local Association, many benefits are available to you. As part of our focus on continuing legal education, we hold bi-monthly dinner meetings where prominent guests speak on interesting legal topics. We conduct at least one legal education seminar each year where lecturers educate our members on various areas of law. We also regularly publish legal education articles and updates on our website for the benefit of our members.

Another significant benefit of membership in our Association is the opportunity to network with fellow members. A roster is available on our website with each member's name, address, telephone numbers, place of employment, and specialty area of law. If an association member is in need of a form or is unfamiliar with a particular area of law, other members are available to help. Our members can also call upon FALSS members around the state on procedures or services in other counties.

Additional benefits are available as a member of our state Association-FALSS. Individual local chapters throughout the state host seminars in conjunction with FALSS Quarterly Meetings and are open to all FALSS members. Each seminar offers CLE credits towards Florida Registered Paralegal certification. FALSS also offers Board Certification programs, recognized by The Florida Bar. The purpose of the program is to identify legal support specialists who have special knowledge, skills, and proficiency in specialized areas of law. FALSS members also receive a quarterly publication, the "Legal Support Journal", which contains seminar information, legal education articles and more. For more information, go to [www.falss.org](http://www.falss.org).

MDLSA members seek to be professionals in their field. Our members can learn of employment opportunities. They feel good about themselves and the career they have chosen. We look forward to getting together each month to share our experiences, expand our knowledge, and have the opportunity to make some wonderful friends.

## Code of Ethics

Members are bound by the objectives of the Miami-Dade Legal Support Association and the standards of good conduct required of the legal profession.

*Every member shall:*

Encourage respect for the law and the administration of justice;

Observe the rules governing privileged communication 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.



For more information and/or to receive a membership application, please contact:

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**2019 - 2020**  
**MDLSA OFFICERS**

*President*  
**Donna Blake**

*Vice President*  
**Marisa Fernandez-Perez, FRP**

*Recording Secretary*  
**Elissa Otto-Villamor, FRP**

*Treasurer*  
**Janel Diamond, FRP**

*FALSS Liaison*  
**Kristina Pritchett, FRP**



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**LEGAL  
SUPPORT  
ASSOCIATION**

CHARTERED November 1956 (Dade County  
Legal Secretaries Association)

REORGANIZED AND CHARTERED  
November 1998  
Miami-Dade Legal Support Association