**Message from the President:**

**A NEW BEGINNING**

Hello Friends,

I am deeply humbled by the trust and confidence placed in me to succeed Heather De La Torre as HMPA’s President for the 2012-2013 term. Despite the gigantic task, it is both a privilege and honor to be given this opportunity to serve and lead HMPA.

This past year proved to be yet another successful one for HMPA. Building on a long-standing tradition to promote the growth of the paralegal profession in the Houston metropolitan area, HMPA will continue to foster professional development of the paralegal profession and individual paralegals (working in all areas of the law) and maintain a high order of ethical and professional standards.

Since its inception in 1978, HMPA’s goal has been to promote the development of the paralegal profession. HMPA’s approach is aimed at offering leading edge CLE programs, mentoring soon-to-be paralegal professionals, encouraging professional certification, distinguishing the difference between paralegals and administrative staff, and educating the legal community (judges, lawyers, administrators) and the public about paralegals’ important role in legal services. Our accomplishments have helped us evolve into one of the largest paralegal associations in the State of Texas, second only to the State Bar of Texas, Paralegal Division. As a result of this approach, HMPA has enjoyed a reputation as Houston’s largest paralegal association since inception 33 years ago.

I am proud of the numerous achievements accomplished last year under the leadership of Ms. De La Torre. However, there is much work still to be done. I will use these and other accomplishments as benchmarks in HMPA’s on-going mission to promote the paralegal profession and foster expansion of paralegal roles.

Until next time!

Jermaine Johnson, CP
HMPA President