

Paralegal Pipeline

February 2008

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Message from the President

At risk of repeating myself, I am reprinting last years' President's Message, in hopes that more members will look at this year as an occasion to participate in CCPA.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become involved with the Chester County Paralegal Association.

My membership and involvement with CCPA has offered rewards in so many different aspects of my career. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the association as a board member and officer. I have published the newsletter for several years, and it has been fun (believe it or not!) and interesting to put together relevant articles for your enjoyment and enrichment. My participation in other committees, such as fundraising and membership has widened my network of friends enormously. I have made many lasting friendships through my relationship with CCPA. We have an exciting year coming up, and now would be a great time to get your "feet wet."

Please remember, this is YOUR association, and without YOUR participation, there is no Chester County Paralegal Association. I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

See Elevator Etiquette on Page 4 for an afternoon laugh!

ATTENTION FULL VOTING MEMBERS! Please be sure to see the e-mail regarding proposed changes to the by-laws. We will be voting on this issue at the March general meeting. Suggestions are due to the committee in writing no later than March 3, 2008. If you did not receive the e-mail, contact me as soon as possible. Thank you,

Suzie A. Marker 610.738.8850



Welcome New Members!

Diane Oakes doakes@gawthrop.com
 Leanne Kissinger
 LKissinger02@hotmail.com
 Kevin Madsen
 Kevinamadsen@gmail.com
 Leigh-Anne Yacovelli
 Lyacovelli@highswartz.com
 Lauren Bogan Lbogan@utbf.com
 Michael Duffy Mcdcliams@aol.com
 Eliud Otieno Okothotieno@aol.com
 Joan Alexander
 Jalexander@suncom.com
 Maureen White
 M.White322@verizon.net

PARALEGAL REGULATION

Submitted by Pat Fisher

The Supreme Court of Florida recently amended the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar by adoption of Chapter 20 establishing the Florida Registered Paralegal Program. These new rules become effective on March 1, 2008. In 2005, the Bar undertook its study of the issue of paralegal certification or registration when legislation to institute a regulatory scheme for paralegals was introduced before the Florida Legislature. The Florida Bar opposed the proposed legislation, in part because it believed that any regulation of paralegals should be in the judicial, rather than the legislative, branch.

A special committee was appointed to study paralegal regulation and the status of paralegals in Florida. After much study and debate and a complete public airing of the issue, including a public hearing, the Florida Bar, on August 15, 2006, filed its "Petition to Amend the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar to add Chapter 20 – Florida Registered Paralegal Program ("FRPP")." The proposed rules do not establish "regulation" of the paralegal profession. Rather they create a registration program, participation in which is purely voluntary.

The FRPP provides for voluntary registration of paralegals who meet certain minimum educational, certification, or work experience criteria and who agree to abide by an established code of ethics in exchange for the ability to refer to themselves as Florida Registered Paralegals.

New Members Corner

Mike Duffy and his wife Jill live in Downingtown Pennsylvania.

Mike is presently attending a Paralegal Certificate program thru the PJA School. He has over 10 years of healthcare practice management experience as well as having spent the last 10 years handling commercial liability claims for Claim Administrators and National Carriers.

Mike is presently working as a National Peer Review Coordinator for Coventry Medical Examinations in King of Prussia. He is also an Adjunct teacher at Montgomery County Community College while also having taught at Chubb Institute and DPT Business School.

Mike is seeking to expand his knowledge by continuing his education thru a paralegal program which he then will combine with his experience to work in our field.

Leigh-Anne Yacovelli

Mrs. Yacovelli works for the firm High Swartz LLP in Norristown, PA as a legal administrative assistant. She directly supports two partners with various litigation matters while assisting others within the firm as needed.

Before joining High Swartz LLP, Mrs. Yacovelli was Project Coordinator, working in a medical start-up/corporate setting. Her experience in this environment includes transactional business and commercial law, as well as and intellectual property.



Peirce College Paralegal Program The University Center at Montgomery County Community College

Peirce College offers Montgomery County Community College students the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degrees in Paralegal Studies at The University Center at Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Associate degree students earn their degree at Montgomery County Community College while pursuing their bachelor's level degree from Peirce College. Students who already have earned a bachelor's degree can earn a post-bachelor's degree certificate in Paralegal Studies.

Why Peirce?

Peirce College is a private, four-year, specialized institution providing practical, high quality degree programs to primarily working adult learners. Flexible scheduling, outstanding student services and innovative delivery systems, especially online learning, are key elements of Peirce's deep tradition and continued dedication to helping Peirce students achieve individual and professional excellence through academic success. It is one of the lowest cost private colleges in Pennsylvania.

That value, combined with Montgomery County Community College's affordable tuition plans, means tremendous value for the student. Peirce holds scholarship competitions twice a year. New applicants or current students with fewer than nine Peirce College credits are eligible to participate.

Why Paralegal Studies?

The Peirce Paralegal Program is approved by the American Bar Association – the same organization that approves every major law school in the United States. It is a mark of quality recognized by legal professionals nationwide. Peirce College's paralegal faculty members are all experienced attorneys – and the same professors teach at all Peirce College locations. Students at the University Center at Montgomery County Community College receive the same degree, delivered by the same professors using the same curriculum and learning outcomes as their counterparts at the Main Campus in Center City Philadelphia.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, predicts faster-than-average growth for the paralegal profession. There is a tremendous need for bachelor's level trained paralegals in the industry today.

The Peirce College Paralegal Studies Program prepares students for rewarding careers in the legal industry as paralegals working under the direct supervision of lawyers in the public and private sectors. Students may go to work in the public sector, private sector, and in virtually any area of the law that they choose. Peirce's paralegal classes cover all the major areas of the law, and students have the opportunity to choose electives in their areas of interest.

Enrollment Benefits

Peirce has an open enrollment policy, and students may start their Peirce career at any time. First level paralegal classes start in the fall each year, but students may begin taking their general education requirements and Montgomery County Community College classes in the fall, spring or summer. Paralegal students at The University Center at Montgomery County Community College have access to the same student services, including tutoring and advising, as their counterparts at the Main Campus in Center City Philadelphia. These services are provided by Peirce directly at The University Center.

Class Structure

Students may take their entire course of study on campus at the state-of-the-art University Center at Montgomery County Community College. Peirce College provides the paralegal classes, and general education requirements (even at the bachelor's level) are fulfilled through classes offered by Montgomery County Community College at University Center. Courses are offered in the evenings, and are designed to be flexible for the working student.

Peirce classes meet once per week for 14 weeks for the first four paralegal classes. These classes meet for three hours (6 to 9 pm). Upper level Peirce classes meet once per week for 7 weeks (6 to 10 pm). Students also may take paralegal courses online through Peirce College after completing their first four classes in the classroom in Pottstown or in Center City. Online courses last seven weeks and have no required set meeting times for students.

Contact Information

For more information, contact Peirce College at 1-888-GO PEIRCE ext. 9300 or visit the website at www.peirce.edu/mccc.



Elevator Etiquette By: Sarah Klem

I don't like to be touched.

Something I don't like even more than touching is the threat of touching, which is the number one reason why I hate elevators.

While Emily Post has never officially deemed it so, I believe there is a proper order to getting into an elevator. My building's current elevators comfortably hold eight individuals in what I like to call the 3-2-3 model. Three people in the back, one in each corner and one in the middle, two in the next row standing between the three in the back and then three in the front following the same pattern as the back row. This leaves lots of breathing room and room to maneuver just in case the woman in the back corner needs to get out first.

And sure there are times, for instance at 8:59 in the morning or when an elevator is down, that more people need to crowd into the space, but this particular morning was not one of them. There were only six of us in the car. I was in the middle back position when this crazy coworker stepped in and stood just to the right and only slightly in front of me.

She was so close I could taste her hair.

Worse, there was no where I could go. She just stood there, almost brushing my coat with her coat staring up at the TV in the elevator that flashes celebrity birthdays, stock updates, news, weather, travel weather and fun new words.

Two more people got on, giving her plenty of room to adjust, but she didn't. She just stood there, reading what someone in Tuscaloosa had to say in response to the viewer's poll.

I was so tempted to whisper in her ear, "You know the NY Times online has all of this information and more." but refrained just in case she had a blog of her own. I wouldn't want to be known as the creepy coworker that suggestively whispers in people's ears.

Instead, I just held my breath, as breathing heavily in a coworker's ear is equally as creepy.

When I finally got to my floor I ran right into New Boss's office to vent my frustration at people's poor elevator etiquette. He then started in on how much he hates when he goes to get off an elevator and the doors open and there is someone standing right there. Worse is when the person makes a move to get on before he has had a chance to get off.

He added that he noticed it is only women that do this. My face colored a bit, but I wasn't going to start a fight. Particularly since I have never noticed this particular phenomenon before and therefore couldn't come up with any concrete examples of men that do it too. For all I knew, it was something only women do.

Later that day, when I was going down to get an un-environmentally friendly bottle of water, I had the whole elevator to myself. I breathed in deep and thanked the elevator gods for such a nice gift. I read all the day's top stories and learned what celebrities were older than me and as the elevator neared the lobby level, I prepared myself for departure. The doors opened and there, standing in my way was Jerkface (the attorney formerly known only as Lawyer In Question). I rolled my eyes and pushed past him. As soon as the doors closed I pushed the up bottom, so excited to confront New Boss with a real live male example of someone doing just what he said only women do that I forgot all about my bottle of water.

Oh, and I settled on Jerkface because when I described another recent transaction with my office crush, Lauren asked, "When are you going to stop flirting like a fourth grader."

I just stared back at her blankly. Is there another way to flirt?

You can enjoy Sarah's blog at <http://devilwearsbrooksbrothers.wordpress.com/>



Upcoming Events

General Meetings: Meetings of the Chester County Paralegal Association generally held at 5:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Chester County Bar Association Building located at 15 West Gay Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

- February 12, 2008 Board Meeting
- March 11, 2008 Board Meeting
- March 27, 2008, 5:30 p.m. - General Meeting
- April 8, 2008 Board Meeting
- May 13, 2008 Board Meeting
- May 22, 2008, 5:30 p.m. - General Meeting
- June 10, 2008 Board Meeting
- July 8, 2008 Board Meeting
- July 21-25, 2008 - Paralegal Week
- August 12, 2008 Board Meeting
- September 9, 2008 Board Meeting
- September 25, 2008, 5:30 p.m. - General Meeting
- October 14, 2008 Board Meeting
- November 11, 2008 Board Meeting
- November 20, 2008, 5:30 p.m. - General Meeting
- December 4, 2008 - Holiday Party
- December 9, 2008 Board Meeting

Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon.

Place to be Announced

The Chester County Paralegal Association's mailing address is:
 C.C.P.A.
 P.O. Box 295,
 West Chester, PA 19381-0295

The Paralegal Pipeline is a bi-monthly publication of the Chester County Paralegal Association. Anyone wishing to write a column, letter to the editor, or offer any ideas of a topic, please contact Suzie A. Marker 610-738-8850. All ideas are welcomed and encouraged. The Committee reserves the right to edit for space and grammar. Every precaution is taken to ensure the accuracy of articles published. The Chester County Paralegal Association cannot accept responsibility for the correctness of the information supplied.

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Board of Directors

Officers:

- President: Suzie A. Marker
- Vice-President: Catherine Marrone
- Treasurer: Maureen O'Hara
- Secretary: Patricia Fisher

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- CLE:
- Job Bank: Barbara Butler
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