

President's Message

Well it has been a busy year so far since becoming President in January.

Please make sure you can make the May 28th meeting as we will have a speaker at our meeting to discuss the job market and sprucing up your resume. The market has become more competitive with the economy and you will want to spruce up your resume. Also at the May 28th meeting the CCPA will give out our first scholarship to Tara Newman, a Peirce College student.

June 20th will be the date for the Trial Run this year which benefits Legal Aid of Southeastern PA. Please let me know if you want to participate either by volunteering or running/walking. The race is over pretty quickly and would not take much of your time.

Keep July 22nd open for the CCPA Paralegal Day Happy Hour 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Spence Café, 29 East Gay Street, West Chester. Spence Café has great food and is a huge supporter of the Paralegal Association.

If you are interested in being on the fundraising committee, please contact me at 610-840-0240 or tcortese@macelree.com. We are preparing to have our 6th Annual silent auction in October and are in the planning stages.

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MAY 28, 2009

DINNER MEETING OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

DATE: May 28, 2009 (Thursday)

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Chester County Bar Association

15 W. Gay Street, West Chester, PA, 19380

SPEAKER: Patricia Schultz of Patricia Schultz Enterprises, Inc.

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How to cope in today's economy: helpful hints for every day life”

**** We will also be presenting the 2009 Chester County Paralegal Association Scholarship to ****

Tara Newman, a student in the paralegal program at Peirce College

A CATERED DINNER will be provided by Limoncello – an authentic Italian home-cooked menu. **REDUCED RATE** - The dinner will be \$10.00 per person for members / \$15.00 per person for non-members.

R.S.V.P. by May 26, 2009 (Tuesday) via e-mail to dbristol@macelree.com.

Please return the portion below to the Chester County Paralegal Association, PO Box 295, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 19381-0295

Name: (Please Print)

_____ MEMBER – YES, I CAN ATTEND. Enclosed is a check payable to the Chester County Paralegal Association in the amount of ***\$10.00***.

_____ NON-MEMBER - YES, I CAN ATTEND. I have enclosed my check payable to the Chester County Paralegal Asso-

CLE Survey

Chester County Paralegal Association is tentatively planning a 1/2 day Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar for November 2009. As you know, it is not yet mandated, generally-speaking, for paralegals to attain CLE credits, but it is indeed becoming a preference within many law firms. Moreover, CLE credits are now required for certification among certain statewide paralegal associations. Therefore, CCPA hopes to provide its members with this seminar, the registration and attendance of which will designate attendees a yet-to-be determined amount of CLE credits.

In order to offer a seminar that will be most useful and well-attended, we would like to know what topics you would find most interesting. (e.g. Wills and Estates, Family Law, Corporate Law.) There will be a nominal fee of approximately \$35.00, including breakfast.

Please submit your choices below by 6/15/09, via e-mail, to me, Wendy Reczek, at wer2610@aol.com. Thank you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Meet a Member of the Board of Directors

Meganne Kenny-Cusato -As Secretary to the Chester County Paralegal Association, Meganne prepares the Minutes of Meetings and maintains the corporate minute book. Meganne has been a paralegal for 30 years, servicing major investment firms, top tier law firms, banks and corporate legal departments. Her expertise is in commercial business transactions, business organization, real estate, and trademarks. Recently, she has started her own firm, Summit Paralegals, Inc., working with small businesses in their start up, law firms with temporary placement and banks with their audit process and loan modifications. She is also a notary in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Previously she worked at General Electric as a Contract Analyst Paralegal; and most notably as Paralegal to William E. Simon (emeritus) , former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury & President of the U.S.

Olympic Committee, after he left government and started his investment banking firm. She attended Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ, Pace University in NYC, and University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and received her degree as an ABA Certified Paralegal from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, NJ. She is a mother of two children and grandmother of one, who has resided in West Chester, PA for three years.



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This is in no way intended to be a solicitation for the licensed practice of law. If your needs fall outside our range, we will



VILLANOVA ADVISORY BOARD– LISA J. TARR

As a member of the Villanova Paralegal Advisory Board, I was recently informed that the ABA modified its guideline G301 relating to accreditation of paralegal programs by adding G301-E. G301 states in part:

D. The curriculum must be responsive to changing needs and reflect research and assessment findings related to paralegal education and utilization of paralegal services. The program must engage in continual review and evaluation and incorporate new ideas relating to both curriculum and instructional method.

E. The program must have an organized plan for evaluation, review, and improvement of the program. There must be regular assessment of the extent to which a program meets its stated goals and objectives.

F. Assessment and evaluation may be accomplished through assessment tools that best measure the program's goals and objectives. The adequacy of the assessment will be evaluated by:

1. The quality of the assessment instruments and methodology;
 2. The frequency with which assessment is conducted;
 3. The degree of participation, such as the response rate on surveys, so as to ensure the validity and reliability of assessment findings;
 4. The extent to which input is sought from graduates, employers, students, advisory committee, faculty, school administrators and a cross-section of members of the legal community;
 5. The written summary and analysis of the assessment findings;
 6. The extent to which the results are shared with the advisory committee, faculty, administrators, and others;
- and
7. The extent to which assessment findings are used to make changes in the program.

The Advisory Board will be meeting on May 18th to discuss the ABA's modifications as they relate to Villanova's paralegal program.

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Trial Run 5K RUN / WALK

**Proceeds will benefit Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania,
Chester County Division**

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Where: West Chester, PA

**For more information please visit our website at
www.trialrun5k.com**

People always ask me, what IS a paralegal?

People always ask me, "What is a paralegal and what can they do?" I respond, "I am a paralegal, and we are professionals who serve the legal community--much like a doctor's assistant serves the medical community." I have been certified by the American Bar Association and have taken classes to learn the law. Most importantly, I provide the "hands on" work needed to service my community.

Paralegals are needed now more than ever in these trying economic times, especially corporate paralegals who directly interact with the public to provide a range of professional services. In both good and bad times, corporate paralegals can help the economy by offering legal services at a lower cost than lawyers.

When people buy property it is important to undertake a due diligence review before the closing, i.e., one should have the title and survey reviewed for exceptions to the title insurance. If a paralegal is trained in this capacity, it can save the client thousands of dollars. Another example is when a homeowner refinances his loan; he can use a paralegal for loan modifications. We can prepare the documents and handle the closing. The job of a paralegal means doing the "hands on" work. We perform the due diligence review, do the paper work and file the documents.

According to the 1997 American Bar Association Model Guidelines for the Utilization of Paralegal Services, "A paralegal is a person qualified by education, training or work experience who is employed or retained by a lawyer, law office,

corporation, governmental agency or other entity who performs specifically delegated substantive legal work for which a lawyer is responsible." It is important to note that pursuant to federal or state statute, paralegals are permitted to provide direct client representation in certain administrative proceedings. However, a lawyer may NOT delegate to a paralegal:

Responsibility for establishing an attorney-client relationship.

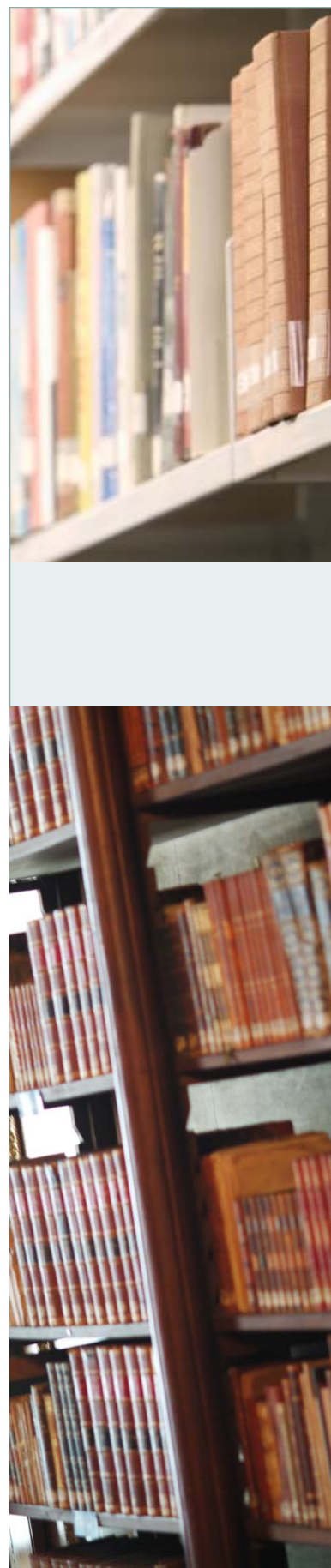
Responsibility for establishing the amount of a fee to be charged for a legal service.

Responsibility for a legal opinion rendered to a client."

In other words, paralegals cannot represent you in court, render a legal opinion/advice or establish certain fees that the lawyer would charge.

In summary, a Paralegal is a challenging, important and rewarding career option. The legal community has learned to rely on us as key resources for making corporate law work in the United States.

Meganne Cusato, Founder of Summit Paralegals, Inc. 3.5.09



PARALEGAL PIPELINE

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 at 610-738-8850 or smarker@gmail.com. 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

We're on the web!
**[http://
www.chescoparalegal.org/](http://www.chescoparalegal.org/)**

Paralegal Pipeline

The Chester County Paralegal
Association

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