

Welcome

By Kris L. Canaday, Freelance Paralegal

Wow! Let me just say what an exciting year 2010 has been; and, in so many ways!

I don't know if it's typical to jump into a new blog with a substantive post or if it's more appropriate to begin with an introduction; the latter seems more appropriate to me. So, here we are: The who, what, when, where, why, and how. Or at least the who, what, and why.

Paralegal Support 101: The purpose

The purpose of *Paralegal Support 101* is to provide information and insight into an oftentimes confusing and, thus, misunderstood concept: paralegal services. It's also to provide insight into the paralegal profession and the abilities of paralegals.

As such, this blog is for attorneys who want to learn more about paralegal support. For attorneys interested in knowing what paralegals can do and how they can help them in their practice. For attorneys, firms, corporations, and agencies that know they need help but don't know how to get the support they need (without raising their costs). For attorneys, firms, corporations, and agencies that need to minimize their overhead. For attorneys who want to lower their clients' legal fees. For attorneys who need more time to grow their practice and develop client relations.

Paralegal Support 101: Why?

From talking with attorneys about paralegal services, I found many attorneys didn't really even know what paralegals do. Similarly, many who had an idea didn't realize the full potential of what paralegals could do for them. They don't teach you this stuff in law school, just like you're not taught how to run a law practice. And so, you learn the hard way, or struggle doing it all yourself. That's why I decided to start this blog — to give you a resource you can turn to and provide a place where you can get answers to your questions.

Paralegal Support 101: What to expect

The goal is to provide quick, easy to read, relevant information on the paralegal profession and support options for attorneys. In doing so, I hope to get away from the formal, dryer writing of law and provide a lighter, warmer environment for enjoyable reading. Through this blog, you'll find information on how to:

- effectively utilize paralegals in your office or practice;
- free-up a substantial amount of time for more pressing matters; and
- still get the support you need when hiring isn't a viable solution.

Kris L. Canaday: Who?

So who am I?

Personally

Personally, I'm me! What can I say? I'm a person, just like you. I'm a wife and mother, a military spouse, life-learner, mentor, volunteer, advocate and, apparently, a writer of some sort, too. I love law, psychology, family, friends, and life. I'm an overachiever and, unfortunately, a perfectionist (yes, it has its downsides). I thrive most when I'm engaged and challenged. I'm passionate about what I do and am happiest when I'm helping those in need. (Now all that may sound cheesy, but ask anyone who knows me and they'll tell you it's true.)

Professionally

Professionally, I'm a paralegal/legal analyst. I provide as-needed legal support to attorneys, firms, corporations, and agencies nationwide. I work as an independent contractor, or freelancer if you will, so no employment expenses or overhead are incurred by my attorneys; they pay only for the work I perform. My goal is to help attorneys increase their profit margin, reduce their overhead, lower their clients' legal fees, and regain a work-life balance by alleviating the burden of a heavy caseload. I have worked from coast to coast in the legal field and have experience in both the public and private sectors.

Summary

This blog is for you so you can find all the answers you want about most anything to do with the paralegal profession and paralegal services including, but not limited to, information on:

- what paralegals can do for you;
- how you can benefit from working with paralegals;
- how paralegals can enhance your practice;
- advantages of **paralegal services**;
- what to look for when choosing paralegal services;
- how to successfully utilize paralegal services;
- tips, tricks, and ideas for working with a **freelance paralegal**;
- topics of importance to the practical aspects of the legal profession; and
- occasional asides.

Please do take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself. Tell me what it is you would like to know about paralegals. If you have specific questions or would like clarification on paralegal utilization or paralegal services, just ask! I'll be happy to add the topic or move it up in line so you get the information you need when you need it. Need to know now? Give me a call.

So, take a minute to look around the site and sign up for automatic updates via the RSS feed. More ways to sign up for notifications will be coming soon. Enjoy!

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