

OCPA and UC Irvine Extension Co-Hosts of April 22, 2006 Paralegal Career Conference

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The Orange County Paralegal Association (“OCPA”) and UC Irvine Extension Paralegal Certificate Program are co-hosting OCPA’s 5th Career Conference. The conference theme is “Launching Into the Paralegal World.” While the conference is primarily geared to paralegal students and recent paralegal certificate program graduates, experienced paralegals contemplating a change in their specialty area will find it beneficial. This year’s Career Conference will be held on the UCI campus, Social Science Laboratory, Room 140 on Saturday April 22, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Conference speakers are being finalized but the topics will include:

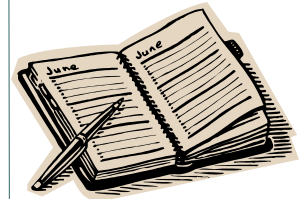
- The Time has Come to Balance the Scales as a Paralegal - Now that

I’ve Graduated, What Do I Do?;

- Panel of Diverse Paralegals - Freelance; Corporate (In-House); Large Firm; Small Firm paralegal; Government;
- Job Hunting/Landing a Paralegal Job;
- A Small Step for Justice and One Giant Leap for the Paralegal Profession;
- California Nuts and Bolts - Being a Paralegal in California.

The cost of the conference is \$35 for OCPA members and \$40 for non-OCPA members. Breakfast and lunch are included in the price.

To register for the conference or to find out information on OCPA please visit OCPA’s website at www.ocparalegal.org



SAVE THE DATE!
Graduation/ Awards Ceremony
June 20, 2006
(Tuesday)
6:00 p.m.

This ceremony recognizes all UC Irvine Extension certificate program graduates for the time period Summer 2005 through Spring 2006. Family and friends are invited to join the graduates in recognizing their accomplishments. Invitations will be mailed in May.

Welcome New Instructors

Paul J. Wallin, J.D., has been practicing law in CA since 1977 and has been the senior partner of Wallin and Klarich, a firm of approximately fifty employees with multiple office locations from San Diego to Ventura. The corporate office is located in Tustin, California. Mr. Wallin has been trial counsel on over 60 jury trials involving sexual abuse allegations. He recently appeared on DATELINE (NBC) providing expert analysis of the Michael Jackson child molestation trial as well as on numerous other television and radio programs including THE TODAY SHOW, AMERICAS MOST

We're on the web

www.extension.uci.edu

Welcome New Instructors - Contd.

WANTED, and HOUR MAGAZINE as it relates to his experience in the area of sexual abuse litigation. Mr. Wallin has served as Judge Pro Tem in both the Central and West Orange County Judicial Districts. Mr. Wallin has also served as presiding Arbitrator for the Orange County Bar Association Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee for the past fifteen years. He currently employs approximately fifteen paralegals, and as managing partner of his law firm is in charge of training all attorneys and paralegals. Mr. Wallin is currently teaching Civil Litigation III.

Morvarid (Mori) Nasri, J.D., MSc, brings experience in the areas of corporate, real estate, and public finance law. She's spent the majority of her career at two large firms, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe and Arnold & Porter. She worked extensively with paralegals at both firms. In addition to her J.D., she also has her Masters of Science in Organizational and Social Psychology, and has spent time as a career counselor at USC Law School. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering. Ms. Nasri is teaching corporate law.

Joni E. Bell, J.D., currently teaching the torts course, has civil litigation experience in personal injury, slip and falls, medical malpractice, construction defect, real estate law and family law. A graduate of Loyola Law School, she was a member of the Entertainment Law Review, and was awarded Best Oral Advocate in the FDMCC Western region moot court competition.

Albert A. Friske, J.D., has been practicing law in California since 1995, and is a partner in the Law Offices of Friske Hilliard. He has experience working in large and small law firms and has worked in the public sector. He has state and federal (Bankruptcy Court) courtroom experience. His firm practices exclusively family law in Orange County, however he has worked with corporate reorganizations in bankruptcy, as well as individuals experiencing personal bankruptcies. He is a member of the Orange County Bar Association. Mr. Friske is teaching bankruptcy.



Gabrielle Roudabush, CP, UC Irvine Extension Paralegal Certificate Program Graduate, Installed as OCPA President for 2006

Gabrielle Roudabush, CP, was elected OCPA President for 2006 at its December meeting. Ms. Roudabush decided to become a paralegal because she was unsure whether or not she wanted to go to law school. While working at a job that she did not really enjoy a friend told her that she was leaving her position as a legal secretary. The friend knew that Gabrielle was interested in spending some time working in a law office before possibly attending law school and, since the friend was responsible for finding her own replacement, she

offered Ms. Roudabush the position.

Ms. Roudabush advises that "Within a month, I knew two things: one, I did not want to go to law school. And, two, I wanted to continue working in the law office environment but not as a legal secretary. Paralegal school was the obvious choice."

Ms. Roudabush started looking into local paralegal programs and the first one she came across was the one at UC Irvine Extension. Having received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCI she knew it was a great school. She contacted the person in charge of the program, talked about what it entailed, and signed up.

After working for a year as a legal secretary, she started looking for a paralegal position. Although still one quarter shy of earning her paralegal certificate, she was able to talk her way into her first paralegal position with a small firm in the Newport/Irvine area, but the stipulation was that she was on "probation" until she earned her certificate. During this time she was encouraged by a fellow paralegal and her firm to pursue the Certified Paralegal ("CP") designation through the National Association of Legal Assistants. She signed up for OCPA's CLA/CP Review Course and began to meet many fellow paralegals and to become more active in OCPA. She earned her CP designation in 2001.

As a benefit of her involvement with OCPA, she compiled a rolodex full of paralegals, vendors, and other legal professionals that she could call whenever she ran into a problem she could not solve or needed some advice. She also took on OCPA leadership roles - treasurer, committee chair and now President.

Mock Trial Course - Great Job Preparation for Litigation Paralegals



You've finished your Civil Litigation courses and want to get a job as a litigation paralegal. Wouldn't it be great to have experience working as a paralegal on a case from start to finish (from pre-litigation through trial and then post trial). Dennis Nakata, a litigation paralegal and 2000 graduate of UC Irvine Extension's Paralegal Certificate Program, and Kathy Miller, CP, CAS, a litigation paralegal and self-proclaimed dinosaur graduate of UC Irvine Extension's Paralegal Certificate Program are once again offering their 7-session "Practical Applications of Civil Litigation – Mock Trial." Students will have a Mock Trial fact pattern loosely based on the first season of the 2004 reality TV series "The Apprentice." The fact pattern used in the Mock Trial course has some fun twists and turns. Sample documents will be used, including mock contracts, e-mails, job evaluations, deposition testimony, and medical records to simulate real life documentary evidence.

Students will be divided into two groups – those representing the plaintiff and those representing the defendants. Each side will prepare documents relating to their status – defendants will prepare an answer to the mock complaint, both sides will propound and respond to discovery, locate and designate experts and then participate in a mini-trial on the second to the last night of class. The last time the Mock Trial jury included Beverly Moss-Jones, paralegal certificate program manager, and other members from the public.

At the final meeting of the course, after the jury renders its verdict, students will discuss whether to appeal the verdict and post-trial procedures, including the preparation of a sample cost bill with a request for substantial attorney's fees.

National/California Paralegal Association Websites

National Paralegal Associations Websites

American Alliance of Paralegals, Inc.
<http://www.aapipara.org>

American Association for Paralegal Education (AAFPE)
<http://www.aafpe.org>

National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)
<http://www.nala.org>

NALSthe Association for Legal Professionals (NALS)
<http://www.nals.org>

National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA)
<http://www.paralegals.org>

California State Association Website

California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA)

<http://www.caparalegal.org>

OCPA President Roudabush - Contd.

Ms. Roudabush's many years of involvement in OCPA, both as a member-at-large and as a member of the board of directors, recently paid off in a big way. She heard of a paralegal position at a large firm in Orange County - a position that she really wanted but did not feel her resume qualified her for. Through the encouragement and a well-placed phone call by a paralegal she had met in OCPA she was able to get her dream job. If it had not been for that paralegal, she is not sure she would have even been called for a first interview.

Ms. Roudabush offers these three pieces of advice for future paralegals: "First, make sure to take every single class possible in the paralegal program that relates to technology. Second, practice your interviewing before going on a real job interview. There is nothing like the power of persuasion and being likable and appearing confident at an interview. This especially applies to new paralegals with no legal experience and who have to sell their potential. Third, join OCPA. You simply cannot start making contacts and friends in the legal community soon enough. And, it's through the network of paralegals you meet in OCPA that you will first hear about the great job, the job that's not being advertised. The paralegal you meet at OCPA is the one who is going to tell you to send your resume over so it can be submitted ahead of the pack."

June 24, 2006 is California Paralegal Day



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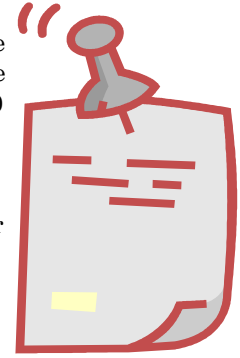
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*Paralegal Post story ideas welcome.
Please submit your ideas for future
articles to paralegal @ unx.uci.edu*

Request for Certificate - All requests should be filled out when you are completing your final course. Please allow three to four weeks after grades are in for certificate processing. To request your certificate, complete a Request for Certificate form and return it to the Paralegal Program Office.

REMINDERS:

Certificate Requirements - Candidates for the certificate must be officially admitted into the program and complete a total of 30 units (300 hours) of instruction with a grade of "C" or above in all courses. Certificate candidates must complete the program within five years of taking their first course. NOTE: A "C-" or below is not a passing grade.



Free Career Counseling and Workshops

Available - Paralegal certificate candidates (both men and women) are eligible for free career counseling and workshops through the Women's Opportunity Center. Call 949.824.7128.

Certificate Candidacy - Certificate candidates must apply for admission into the program before completing the third course in which they enroll - applications are available on the web.

All Paralegal Certificate Program forms are available online at:

www.extension.uci.edu/courses/certificate/paralegal.asp

Spring 2006 Schedule Announced

- Legal Admissions Meeting
Tues. 3/21/2006
RSVP 949.824.5528
- Introduction to the Legal System
Tues.-Thurs. 3/21-3/23/2006
- Fundamentals of Legal Assistantship
Wed. 3/29-5/31/2006
- Legal Research
Tues. 4/4-6/6/2006
- Legal Writing
Tues. 4/4-6/6/2006
- Civil Litigation II
Mon. 3/27-6/5/2006
(Holiday 5/29/2006)
- Contracts
Wed. 3/29-5/31/2006
- Business Law
Tues. 3/28-5/30/2006
- Computer Assisted Legal Research
Tues.-Thurs. 6/13-6/15/2006
- Criminal Law
Thurs. 3/30-6/1/2006
- Software Applications for the Legal Environment
Mon. 4/3-6/12/2006
Holiday 5/29/2006
Sat. 4/8/2006
- Paralegal Internship
Tues. 3/21; 4/25; 5/23/2006
- Practical Applications of Civil Litigation - Mock Trial
Thurs. 4/6-5/18/2006
- Real Estate Law
Wed. 4/5-6/7/2006

