

Gears of Law

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Provided by the Paralegal Student Association and sponsored by Student Life.

The Great Paralegal Student Debate

By Amber Cotton

What is law without a good debate? Trial lawyers should have the keen and questioning mind that is required in a debate, and so should their paralegals. The inaugural paralegal student debate was a hit!

Two pivotal cases were selected: *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius, et. al.*, and *The State of Florida v. Zimmerman*. In the first above-mentioned case, Conestoga Wood Specialties is suing the United States Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as "Obamacare." The Affordable Care Act mandates that employers providing their employees with health insurance should also provide contraceptives. Due to the company's religious beliefs as Mennon-

ites, Conestoga believes that it should not provide 16 of the 20 contraceptives mandated by the act.

For the debate, plaintiffs and defendants faced off on this highly controversial civil issue. Even though the case has not been decided by the United States Supreme Court as of the date of this article (arguments were heard before the court in March 2014), the students of NHCC were ready to decide this case here and now. The student plaintiffs argued that corporations are legally considered persons, and the federal government cannot force persons to commit acts against their religious beliefs under the First Amendment. However, the student defendants argued that Conestoga, while a family-owned company, is still a for-profit company and is not afforded



the claim of personal intrusion.

Next on the agenda was the hotly contested, and still controversial, criminal case from the summer of 2013, *The State of Florida v. Zimmerman*. In the event you may have been stuck under a rock last summer, the case involves George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watchman, killing 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Martin was walking through Zimmerman's neighborhood, when Zimmer-

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Linda Larson, Recipient of COE 2014 Keith Sherin Global Leaders

By Alexandria Lovell

I had the great pleasure of being able to sit down to interview Linda Larson. Many of you were probably like me and wondering, "Who is that?" However, when you see Linda's picture in the newsletter, you will think, "I know Linda, she is the woman that is always smiling." Linda is also

a recipient of this year's COE 2014 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program in Salamanca.

Linda will be traveling to Salamanca, Spain, and will be studying Spanish and the Spanish culture. Her day will consist of school from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., lunch from

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and evening activities from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. with dinner at 9:30 p.m.

She won the scholarship by writing her essay on what she has overcome. One of the things she overcame is being the first in her family to attend college, which is how she be-

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Linda Larson Interview Cont'd.

came involved with SSS/TRIO, where she found out about this scholarship.

TRIO is all about scholarships, and they encourage their students to find the support they can.

Finding financial support that these students need is one of the ways TRIO helps the students in their program. It should be noted that the Keith Sherin Scholarship is nationwide and only 23 students out of the entire nation were selected this year. Additionally, this campus has

sent at least one winner for the last 10 years, which speaks to the quality of the TRIO program at NHCC.

Another fun fact about Linda, and what makes her a great recipient for this scholarship is that she has volunteered for the Community Action Program of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) legal clinic held by NHCC's paralegal program. She liked it so much that she has been working at their office every Monday since last Octo-

ber. She specifically works with DACA (Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals), which consists mainly of Spanish speaking clients. This scholarship will give her an opportunity to learn the language so she will be able to better assist those clients.

I hope you will take the time to give Linda good wishes as she travels to Salamanca this summer.



Student Debate Cont'd.

man suspected him of suspicious behavior due to the recent residential robberies in that community. Zimmerman followed Martin, a fight ensued, and Martin was shot and killed.

While the jurors in that case ultimately decided that Zimmerman was not guilty of second-degree murder under Florida's "stand your ground" law, Minnesota does not have such a law. In fact, a person in Minnesota should attempt to retreat before claiming self-defense. In Florida, Zimmerman did not attempt to retreat, but instead followed

Martin before a fight happened.

After the issues were stated, argued, and rebutted, both cases were turned over to judges Bor Yang, an instructor in the NHCC Paralegal Program, Michael Birchard, Chief Diversity & Affirmative Action Officer, and yours truly. The judges ultimately decided that in the case of *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Sebelius, et. al.*, the defendants, the United States Department of Health and Human Services,

effectively argued its case and won. Additionally, in the case of *The State of Florida v. Zimmerman*, the judges decided that according to Minnesota law, Zimmerman was guilty of second-degree murder, and the team of student plaintiffs prevailed.

Congratulations to the winners, and a big thank you to Michael Birchard for being a judge. We hope to see you all next year!

"While the jurors in that case ultimately decided that Zimmerman was not guilty of second-degree murder under Florida's 'stand your ground' law, Minnesota does not have such a law."

Field Trip at Cargill

By Chrystal Grates

If you haven't quite pin-pointed the direction of where your paralegal career might be headed, I CAUTION you not to feel alone in this process. There are many avenues to explore and any opportunity you are given to do so, GRAB it. All students of the NHCC Paralegal Program were given the opportunity to do just that and spend a few hours with the legal team at Cargill's campus in Wayza-

ta. Those of us who attended got an inside seat to speed network with the legal team, explore the different areas of law for which one could work as a corporate paralegal, and take a tour of Cargill's massive campus.

Rich with history, Cargill is the largest privately held company in the United States, and has the largest corporate concentration of paralegals in the Twin Cities met-

ro. During our visit we had the opportunity to interact with a panel of six paralegals and one generalist attorney, who discussed several areas of practice within Cargill's legal team including litigation, real estate, trademarks, environmental, employment and labor, mergers and acquisitions, and immigration law. The legal team began their presentation by briefing students on some note-

worthy advice when interviewing and drafting cover letters and resumes, along with emphasizing the importance of social media in today's employment world. Did you know that 94% percent of recruiters are now using LinkedIn to search for talent? It's always a good reminder for all of you paralegal job seekers, and soon-to-



Upcoming Events

MPA Real Estate Sectional

When: Thursday, May 13, 2014

Where: Gray Plant Mooty
80 South 8th Street, Suite 500
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Does the Property Have “Marketable Title?”

MPA Litigation Sectional

When: Wednesday May 14, 2014

Where: Nilan Johnson Lewis P.A.
120 South Sixth Street, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Using iPad or Tablet Technology Effectively in the Courtroom and Your Law Firm

MPA Probate and Tax Sectional

When: Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Where: Fredrikson & Byron
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Estate Sales

MPA Bankruptcy Sectional

When: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Where: Roseville Public Library
2nd Floor Board Room
2180 Hamline Avenue
Roseville, MN 55113

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Brainstorming Session to Discussion Future Topics/Speakers

2014 Minnesota Paralegal Association Membership

Minnesota Paralegal Association is a great place to meet other paralegals, attend informative sectionals at no cost, attend mixers, and more! Please visit mnparalegals.org for more information.



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Field Trip at Cargill Cont'd.

be graduates, to start constructing that LinkedIn profile you have been putting off, and start building that social network with your classmates and colleagues that you have met throughout the course of your studies and professional experiences.

During the panel presentation, the legal team stressed the importance of technology serving the legal profession and discussed the most used software and applications in their day-to-day professions at Cargill. The most used were e-discovery, clout-based platforms, document management software, matter management, and not surprising...internet searching using Google. As a student with no professional paralegal experience, one of the things I found to be the most helpful that the panel touched on, was the side-by-side comparisons

between the structure of a corporate legal environment versus a law firm. For instance, law firms are typically "reactive" to legal issues, generally getting involved after some type of event or incident has occurred versus a corporation, who is usually trying to be "pro-active" and avoid future lawsuits, damages, or litigation down the road. In a corporation, you will also find it more common as a paralegal to be working directly with the client versus a law firm where this is usually done by the attorney. Corporations also do not track billable hours versus a law firm that is dependent on this for its livelihood. Now this is not a blanket comparison to be applied to all corporate legal de-

partments and law firms, however it is important to recognize there are significant differences in the two environments. It's worth your time to be open to both if you're not quite sure where you might fit in.

Following the presentation, the legal panel hosted a short Q&A session on the topics discussed and then provided students with the one-on-one opportunity to speed network in small groups with several of Cargill's paralegals. Speed networking consisted of one paralegal on a five to seven minute rotation to each student table (small groups of approx. four to five students per table) talking about their areas of expertise and com-

pletely giving the floor to students to ask questions. This opened up a tremendous amount of dialogue between paralegals and students, and even a chance to go a step further and build social connections. Overall, students got a wide range of depth and exposure to several different career considerations as a corporate paralegal, while gaining a fundamental knowledge of what attributes are often sought after as a paralegal professional.

"Did you know that 94% percent of recruiters are now using LinkedIn to search for talent?"

I Never Wanted to Be Involved

By David Weber

When I first came to NHCC in January 2013, I only wanted to finish my degree and get into a new profession. I was not looking to make any friends. In fact, I had decided I would pretty much avoid talking to other students. I definitely was not about to join any clubs, organizations, or get involved in anything. I just wanted to get through school and move on with my life.

That all started to go out the window my very first semester. It turned out I was pretty good at understanding this legal stuff. I was participating in class discussions, answering questions and doing well in my very first paralegal course. Others in the class began to notice and started talking to me. Next thing I knew I was studying with them, and we were becoming friends.

By the end of that first semester, I had actually made a few new friends and was gaining the respect of people in the paralegal program. I had been approached by a few fellow students asking if I would get involved in the Paralegal Student Association and consider running for President. Over the summer, I decided getting involved a little bit could be good for my resume, but I cer-

tainly did not want to become president of anything.

Last fall I attended the first Paralegal Student Association meeting of the year. Again, I had no intention of becoming a board member. During the course of the meeting, however, it somehow sounded like a good

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The Importance of LinkedIn

By Vanessa Milbradt

Like many other complex industries, the legal world can be challenging to break into. I follow several paralegal-focused blogs, and lately many of the discussions have centered on a particular subtopic of job searching: what is the value of having a presence on LinkedIn as a legal professional, and is it actually

possible to secure a job with a personalized profile?

I have the great fortune of confirming from personal experience that a quality LinkedIn profile is a valuable investment of time and energy. As a result of keeping my professional experience up to date, I was contacted by an interested employer to discuss consideration for an open position with a local law firm, and this conversation led to an interview and

an offer of employment I never would have imagined possible.

This particular recruiter had noticed that I "follow" the firm's page on LinkedIn and upon reviewing my information they were able to conclude that my prior experience was relevant to the position in addition to noticing that we had a contact in common, or a second degree connection.

This contact was able to supply this employer with a positive review of my work, which furthered their interest to invite me to interview for the job.

LinkedIn has a reputation for providing enhanced opportunities to network and meet other professionals in one's field of interest. Upon my college graduation, I created a

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Paralegal Courses

Summer Session 2014

These courses are offered during the eight week summer session that runs June 9 – August 1 **unless otherwise noted.**
Each course meets as indicated below:

MEETS MONDAYS/WEDNESDAYS	MEETS TUESDAY/THURSDAYS
<p>PLEG 2510 Contracts and Business Organizations 3:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Carrie Vaia Late Start Session – 8 weeks Session Runs: 6/9 – 8/1/2014</p>	<p>PLEG 1411 Litigation I 6:30 p.m. – 9:50 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Bor Yang Summer Session I – 6 weeks Session Runs: 5/19 – 6/27/2014</p>
<p>PLEG 2930 Legal Studies Seminar 6:00 – 9:20 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Mary Fenske Summer Session I – 6 weeks Session Runs: 5/19 – 6/27/2014 ** See Note Below **</p>	<p>PLEG 1210 Computer Applications in the Legal Profession 3:30 – 5:50 p.m. (2 credits), Instr.: Shawn Woodbury Summer Session II – 6 weeks Session Runs: 6/30 – 8/8/2014</p>
<p>PLEG 1111 Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. (3 credits), Instr.: Carrie Vaia Late Start Session – 8 weeks Session Runs: 6/9 – 8/1/2014</p>	

Note: This schedule is subject to change.

Revised Sept. 2013

****Both Internship and Practicum Students meet on Mondays; Practicum Students only meet on Wednesdays. Any student who has not submitted an Internship Learning Contract signed by their host site supervisor is considered a practicum student and must attend on Wednesdays.**

I Never Wanted to Be Involved Cont'd.

idea to run for President. Next thing I knew, I was President of the Paralegal Student Association.

Being part of the Paralegal Student Association has turned out to be a great experience. Although it was work at times, it was always fun. We have a great group of students attending our meetings and events. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with and meet everyone who has been involved with us. Among the highlights were the Halloween Party, the Attorney Speakers, and of course, our first ever Student Debate. Thank you to everyone who attended, participated and helped out with all of our events.

On top of serving on the board of the Paralegal Student Association, I was also recruited by Mary Fenske to work as a tutor for the Spring Semester, especially for Legal Research and Writing 1. I hesitated at first, but decided it would also be a good resume builder.

Once again, I found myself surprised by how much fun I was having. Working with my fellow students and watching the light bulbs go off was amazing. There were times it was difficult, but in the end we always figured it out. It also helps that I love talking about and working on anything law-

related. I am also one of the strange ones that love memos. Not only did I get to help others, I even made a couple friends along the way.

I am graduating this summer and will actually miss everything I have been doing at NHCC. While it has been a lot of work, it has also been a rewarding and fun experience. I started here not wanting to get involved or meet new people. In the end, it has been getting involved and making new friends that has made my experience at NHCC so amazing. If you are thinking it's too much work or

you just don't want to get involved, I highly recommend that you reconsider. It's not just about bolstering the resume. It's about the experiences and friends that you gain that make it all worth it. I truly appreciate everyone I have met, become friends with, and worked with this past year. I will miss my time here, but will always have the amazing memories.

The Importance of LinkedIn Cont'd.

profile right away and have since benefitted greatly by learning where my "niche" is and how to present myself to current and future employers. Taking the time to outline your previous positions and education, writing a compelling summary of your job skills, and posting recommendations from past employers provides recruiters with the opportunity to see a detailed "snapshot" of

what you have to offer and where your professional interests lie.

What I have learned is that opportunities arise even when you are not looking, so staying open-minded is key, particularly in assessing options for legal positions. The bigger and more active your network is, the more likely your chances will be to

engage your field. Using LinkedIn can have surprising and unexpected results, ranging from opportunities for professional development to the chance to completely change your employment situation.

"The bigger and more active your network is, the more likely your chances will be to engage your field."

**Good luck on your exams from the Paralegal Student Association!
Congratulations Class of 2014!**



PARALEGAL COURSES FALL SEMESTER 2014 – REVISED SEPTEMBER 2013

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>PLEG 2212-01 Legal Research and Writing II 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>	<p>PLEG 1111-01 Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies 12:00 -2:40 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>	<p>PLEG 2211-01 Legal Research and Writing I 12:00 – 2:40 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Fenske</p>			<p>PLEG 2930-71 Legal Studies Seminar 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. 3 credits Every other weekend Instr: Fenske</p>
<p>PLEG 1210-91 Computer Applications 4:30 – 6:10 p.m. 2 credits Instr: Woodbury</p>	<p>PLEG 2510-01 Contracts/Business Organizations 3:30 - 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 2310-01 Criminal Law 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1330-01 Family Law (Hybrid) 3:30 – 6:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>		
<p>PLEG 1210-92 Computer Applications 6:30 –8:10 pm 2 credits Instr: Woodbury</p>	<p>PLEG 1412-91 Litigation II 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1411-91 Litigation I 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Yang</p>	<p>PLEG 1430-91 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) 4:30 –6:10 p.m. (first 8 weeks) 1 credit Instr: Vaia</p>		
<p>PLEG 2211-91 Legal Research and Writing I 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Fenske</p>	<p>PLEG 1111-91 Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies 6:30 - 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>	<p>PLEG 2710-91 Wills, Trusts, Estates 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>	<p>PLEG 2620-91 Property 6:30 –9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Vaia</p>		
<p>PLEG 2212-91 Legal Research and Writing II 6:30 – 9:10 p.m. 3 credits Instr: Lattimore</p>					

Paralegal Courses Fall Semester 2014
Revised September 2013

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

NHCC Paralegal Program Wins Award!

The 2014 NHCC Student Life Awards Banquet was held April 25, 2014 at the Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park. The night was filled with a delicious dinner, many great guests, and the NHCC Jazz Ensemble.

Amongst the night's winners was our very own program. The NHCC Paralegal Program received the Outstanding Service Learning Program of the Year for our On-Campus Legal Services partnership with the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin.

As you may know, the Legal Services clinic is held through the year helping those in need receive legal advice. Students from the program are encouraged to volunteer, and not surprisingly, slots fill up quickly.

Student Life received nominations as well as several testimonials from those who have been helped by the legal clinic. Mary Fenske graciously accepted the award on the program's behalf.

For those interested in future legal clinics, be sure to check your NHCC email account, or inquire with Mary at mfenske@nhcc.edu.

Congratulations!

