

# Gears of Law

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

## A Day at the Legal Clinic

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By Raven Weber

Have you been trying to find a way to add experience to your resume? It can be difficult to add experience as a student trying to get into your chosen field.

One option that can be found right here at NHCC is to volunteer at the monthly held legal clinics. They are a great way to meet other professionals and students while gaining experience to add to your resume.

I recently volunteered at the legal clinic in September. It was a great experience. The day began with a quick one hour training session. They kept it light and easy to follow. We learned the documents

we may need to fill out, and the information we need to collect from clients.

One thing they stressed to us was the importance of confidentiality and being sure not to give legal advice. You know, those two things all of your professors keep preaching. It really is important.

After the training, the first clients began to arrive. As volunteers, we worked in pairs to interview and gather the client information needed for the attorney. The client I was able to work with was dealing with a contract dispute. After filling out the intake form and getting the basic information about the case, she was able to see the attorney. With the client's consent, we were able



to sit in on the consultation. It was a great experience to see how the attorney handled the meeting with a client. She was to the point, without being harsh.

As the conversation went on about the dispute, it was tempting to offer suggestions or ask questions. However, I went with the theory to keep

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## Meet the PLSA

### Chair—Raven Weber

After fifteen years in the salon and barbershop industry, I decided it was time for a change. I had always been interested in the law and a legal career. I considered some options, and NHCC was the perfect choice. I am now in my second year. I also decided to get more involved in the school, especially with the paralegal program. I attended my first Paralegal Student Association meeting this fall. After hearing more about it, I decided to run for Chair. I am

proud to serve as Chair of the PLSA and look forward to meeting and working with all of you.

### Vice Chair—Chrystal Grates

Hi, I'm Chrystal Grates and I will be serving as your Vice Chair for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year. I am graduating this spring 2014 from the paralegal program and only have legal research and the capstone left to finish out my year. I currently work in Human Resources and I'm concurrently completing a

bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management at Metro State University. A couple of fun facts about me; I recently became a first time homeowner a little less than a year ago and in the process adopted two adorable cats who are known as "Panda" and "Squeaker." I look forward to being a part of the PLSA executive leadership team and hope you take the time to stop and say hi if you see me in the hallways at NHCC!

Secretary/Treasurer—Amie Utermoehl

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Chrystal Grates, Vice Chair of the Paralegal Student Association

## Meet the PLSA Cont'd

Hello! My name is Amie Utermoehl and I will be serving as the Secretary/Treasury for the Paralegal Student Association. I have been a student at NHCC since the spring of 2013 and will be graduating with an AS degree as a paralegal in the spring of 2014. We welcome all to stop in and see what the Paralegal Student Association can do for you.

### Events/Marketing Chair— Alexandria Lovell

I am excited to be working as the PLSA Events/Marketing Chair. I would like to use this position to create more publicity for the PLSA on the college campus and hopefully to local businesses because I believe the PLSA is a great student

organization, and I can see it doing great things for students.

A little bit about myself: I have three children, a husband, and a dog. I am a legal secretary and have worked in the legal field for 17 years. I enjoy working in the legal field, and decided it was time to take my career further by going back to school to obtain my Paralegal degree. This will be my last year at NHCC and I plan to savor it, and my work with the PLSA.

### Student Senate Representative— Jennie Swenson

Hi everyone! I am the Student Senate Representative for the PLSA for the fall semester and I will be graduating

in December. My counterpart, Katie Knudsen, will take over for the spring semester. I will be graduating with my A.S. degree, and couldn't be happier about this achievement!

I'm a wife and mom of 2 young boys, and I work nearly full-time for Fairview Health Services as a Sourcing Specialist and Recruitment Assistant. For the past 3 ½ years I have been a part-time student while balancing work, homework, and home life. The time has flown by, and I am so excited to graduate. I am currently researching schools for my B.A., and possibly Law School one day too!

I hope you enjoy your experience as a paralegal student as much as I have. I wish you all the best! Feel free to contact me anytime.



Chrystal's cats, Panda and Squeaker

## A Day at the Legal Clinic Cont'd

quiet and let the attorney do the talking. We needed to be vigilant about not giving legal advice ourselves. Unless the attorney asked us something, we kept quiet. The attorney gave the client advice on how to handle her situation. You could tell the client was happy and relieved to get the advice.

The rest of the day was fairly quiet for me. We got to play around with the computers, working with various forms that may be needed. It was also a great time to meet and interact with the clinic staff and other paralegal students. Talking and sharing ideas with each other is always fun and helpful.

Overall, it was a great experience and I look forward to working at more of the clinics. Whether you are looking to help others, meet and network with new people, or add experience to your resume, the legal clinics offered here at NHCC are great way to participate.

“You could tell the client was happy and relieved to get the advice.”

## Lacey Parker: Paralegal Tutor

By Lacey Parker

As a paralegal tutor, my number one goal is to help students succeed in the paralegal program at North Hennepin Community College. I will do my best to provide students with the necessary resources to find success within the program. Whether it is showing students how to

use the Bluebook, how to organize a legal memorandum, or how to read and decipher statutes, I am here to help.

As a tutor, I also spend time with students discussing class expectations, as well as providing tips on how to be successful. I use my experience in the program to help students better understand the material and what is expected from them. As a current

student in the paralegal program, I have completed Intro to Law, Litigation I and II, Legal Research and Writing I, Computer Applications, Family Law, Criminal Law, Intellectual Property, and Contracts and Business Organizations.

Make sure you take advantage of this service by scheduling an appointment in TutorTrak today!



## Student Senate Updates

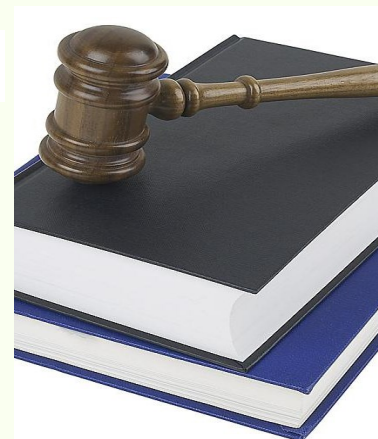
By Jennie Swenson

The Student Senate has 4 vacant positions: Vice President, Legislative Coordinator and 2 Senators at Large. This is a GREAT opportunity for paralegal students to get involved and obtain leadership skills. Please submit your letter of interest to the Student Senate as soon as possible. Elections will take place on Thursday, October 31.

The Student Senate is looking to add people to its Communications Team. There are also several committee positions available such as the Facilities Committee, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee, Diversity Committee, etc. Please contact the Student Senate to express your interest.

On Thursday, October 3, we passed a motion to move the Commencement Ceremony off-site, beginning

May 2014. This will allow NHCC graduates to invite more friends and family members to the graduation ceremony. More news to come on the selected venue.



## Anoka Crime Lab Tour

By Jennie Swenson

As a student in the Legal Studies Seminar and Internship class, I had the opportunity to visit the Anoka County Crime Lab on October 2, for our classroom field trip. The tour was approximately 90 minutes, but the abundance of information was immeasurable.

We were introduced to a DNA scientist who conducted the first half of our tour. She brought us to various parts of the Crime Lab including Evidence Intake, the DNA Labs, the Drug Chemistry Lab, the Toxicology Lab, as well as the department that processes latent prints. She explained how evidence is processed (and often times, eventually destroyed), how DNA is examined and can be separated,

the process of determining the purity of controlled substances, how toxicology labs can be processed, and the methods used to examine and compare latent prints.

The second half of our tour was led by a Sheriff's Deputy who brought us to the Crime Scene Garage and explained how they "process" vehicles that are involved in a crime. They usually receive one or two vehicles per week and they are able to process the vehicle in its entirety in their climate-controlled garage. "Processing" includes gathering DNA samples, fingerprinting, and removal of evidence, all of which is thoroughly documented for court records. She also explained blood-spatter

patterns and how the surface tension of blood, along with the amount of force, distance and angle, altogether can cause the blood to spatter in various ways.

Following the Crime Scene Garage, she showed us her own Crime Unit vehicle and all the items she takes to each scene, and then she brought us into another garage where S.W.A.T team vehicles are parked, along with the Dive Team and Water Patrol watercraft.

While this field trip is optional for Internship students (and required for practicum students), I highly recommend that you participate if you are able. It will be an opportunity and experience that you will never forget.

"This will allow NHCC graduates to invite more friends and family members to the graduation ceremony."





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# Upcoming Events

## October 25

What: Fall Gathering 2013

Where: Hilton Hotel Minneapolis

1001 Marquette Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55402

When: 5:30 pm—8:30pm

## October 29

Paralegal Student Association Halloween Party—see attached flyer for details!

## October 31

NHCC Student Senate Elections

### 2014 Minnesota Paralegal Association Membership

If you renew, or sign up for a new membership, before October 31st, you will receive 10% off the yearly membership fee! The 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](http://mnparalegals.org) for more information.

### **Write for Gears of Law!**

If you would like to write for the Paralegal Student Association's newsletter, contact Amber Cotton, [rosellasweet@gmail.com](mailto:rosellasweet@gmail.com), for more information.



### Contact Us

**Mary Fenske, Advisor**

[mfenske@nhcc.edu](mailto:mfenske@nhcc.edu)

**Raven Weber, Chair**

**Chrystal Grates, Vice  
Chair**

**Amie Utermoehl, Secre-  
tary/Treasurer**

[utam3842@my.nhcc.edu](mailto:utam3842@my.nhcc.edu)

**Jennie Swenson, Senate  
Rep for Fall 2013**

[swje5902@my.nhcc.edu](mailto:swje5902@my.nhcc.edu)

**Katie Knutsen, Senate  
Rep for Spring 2014**

**Alexandria Lovell,  
Events/Marketing Chair**

**Ashlie Weller, Communi-  
ty Liason**

**Amber Cotton, Newslet-  
ter Chair**

[rosellasweet@gmail.com](mailto:rosellasweet@gmail.com)

NHCC's Paralegal Student Association

Invites you to our

# Halloween Party!

Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00 pm

Room LRC 104



Wear a COSTUME



GAMES

PRIZES



NETWORKING

Bring a bag of candy for a  
CANDY SWAP

MUSIC



SNACKS

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN

OPEN TO ALL NHCC STUDENTS, STAFF, & FACULTY

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

## PARALEGAL COURSES FALL SEMESTER 2014 – REVISED SEPTEMBER 2013

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