



DC Paralegal Services

1-888-NOT-X-COP
Available 24 hours / day

Welcome readers to the first edition of Paralegal News!

This column is intended to give the community information regarding Paralegals and what their function is in society. In May of 2007, The Law Society became the governing body to ensure that Paralegals understood and followed ethical protocol and knew what services they could offer, and more importantly what services Paralegals could *not* do. For the first time in North America, Paralegals in Ontario are now registered with the Law Society of Upper Canada. The first examination of approximately 2200 Paralegal candidates took place in January and February of 2008. 95% passed the exam.

Through licensing and registration with the Law Society of Upper Canada, the focus of ethical standards and requirements of Error and Omission Insurance has enhanced the protection that the public deserves. Clients can be assured that any past gray areas of practice have now been clarified. It is important that prospective clients and people in the community feel comfortable when dealing with Paralegals, as we are ready to professionally SERVE you, your family and friends.

In the Quinte region, various companies such as Law Firms, Collection agencies and independent clients rely on Paralegals to complete service of legal documents, prepare documents along with representing them in proper forums, such as Small Claims Court, Landlord and Tenant board hearing, and Traffic Court. Some Paralegals specialize in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board matters... known as WSIB. Experienced Paralegals have the resources and experience to walk you through many different situations.

Along with educational standards, and adhering to ethical protocol, this column intends to provide useful tips, clear up myths, and in general provide education to the public. It should be understood that Paralegals can not present themselves as Lawyers. The Law Society now officially governs paralegals. There is a complaint process to protect the consumers from fraud, unethical behaviour and wrong doing by Paralegals.

As Spring approaches and Paralegals receive their licenses, we want to take the opportunity to share information with our community, in anticipation of ensuring that our role is clearly outlined. You can trust

Paralegals. We have dedicated significant time to gain your trust. We want you to feel comfortable in asking questions. If we can not help you directly, we can always make recommendations as to who may help you, and as with most issues regarding Estate, Wills, Divorces, and Real Estate... Paralegals will want you to speak to a Lawyer. It is our duty to ensure you seek legal advice from a Lawyer for these matters!

There is great information which can be found at the Law Society's website, and we invite you to peruse <http://www.lsuc.com> , if you have an interest in new developments and never really understood what a Paralegal is or does... then we believe you will find their website very informative. As it is easy to navigate, please explore the Paralegal section, to find Frequently asked question, and even take a look at the Paralegal Rules of Conduct.

In our next edition, we want to provide you with information on Landlord and Tenant issues. Building on our intention to serve our community to the best of our ability, we invite you to contact Paralegals if you have a legal concern, and aren't sure about how to start. As the spring thaw is just around the corner... we hope you warm up to our column, feeling confident that your Traffic ticket questions, Small Claims concerns, Landlord and Tenant issues along with various other queries will be addressed in a Professional, Ethical and Honest way. The long-standing profession of law is never static; Paralegals have a new sense of pride, being welcomed to the Law Society. We want to help you. We want to be an important part of the community. We want to share with you! We are at your service!

Cordially

***David Chatten / Ken Klein
DC Paralegal Services, Belleville, Ontario***