Sullivan hosts popular annual Paralegal Roundtable Discussion

Practicing paralegals from the Louisville legal community recently joined with students from The Institute for Legal Studies at Sullivan University for the 15th consecutive Paralegal Roundtable Discussion. This annual event provides an opportunity for students to meet and network with legal professionals who are willing to share their time and expertise.

Sullivan students were especially fortunate this year as two roundtable discussions were conducted for one day division and one for the evening division. The four legal professionals participating in the day division roundtable discussion were: Linda Hillerich, Paralegal with the law office of Ogden Newell & Welch; Sandi Preston, Paralegal with the law office of Wyatt Tarrant & Combs; and Paula Peters, Paralegal with the law office of Frost Brown & Todd. The four legal professionals who participated in the evening division roundtable discussion were: Pam Byerly, a Sullivan bachelor’s degree graduate, class of 1998 and Paralegal with the law office of Woodward Hobson & Fulton; and Linda Cambron, Paralegal with the law office of Wyatt Tarrant & Combs and Sullivan graduate, class of 1988.

The speakers took turns explaining their role and responsibilities at their place of employment. They covered such topics as their job title, area of law practiced, specific job responsibilities, work environment, organizational strategic approaches to conflict resolution and the implementation of conflict management systems, but they also gave them the requisite skills to assist with daily interactions with managers and peers.

Students attending the Roundtable discussion were anxious to ask questions. One student wanted to know exactly what the most likely future job would be for those who wish to pursue a career as a paralegal. Another student wanted to know what the best way was to prepare for effective negotiations. The speakers gave students an opportunity to develop strategies for approaching conflicts in the workplace, to develop creative solutions to their students discover how some of the finest chefs in the business prepare their elegant dishes. But Chef Instructor John Richards CEC, CPC really captured the students’ attention when he recently took six students from his weekday and evening culinary classes on a unique culinary trip to dine at the famous Charlie Trotter’s restaurant in Chicago, Illinois. Chef Richards first experienced Charlie Trotter’s restaurant as a student competing in the National Restaurant Association Trade show in 1995.

"I was impressed with the way Trotter seemed to transcend the best of the best with his style of degustation menus, knowledge of food stuffs and willingness to experiment in non-traditional matching of flavors. After graduating and opening restaurants of his own, Chef Trotter would take my key managers and Chefs to work in his restaurant for six months to develop a conflict resolution program by integrating material from the three previous courses. By applying the principals and techniques learned, students will understand the dynamics and benefits of diagnosing conflict, examine recurrent themes of conflict causes, perform an interest analysis, develop creative solutions to manage diversity issues.”

"DCR 402: Managing a Paralegal as Negotiator, is designed to help students to develop strategies and approaches for effective negotiations. Students will improve negotiation skills, develop general strategies for successful negotiation, understand myths of negotiation, and produce win-win resolutions for all parties.”

"DCR 401: Principles of Conflict Resolution, presents communication theories relevant to conflict resolution to help managers understand, analyze, and manage conflict. The skill set developed in this course will not only help students understand organizational strategic approaches to conflict management, but also, help develop organizational strategic approaches to conflict management systems, but they also gave them the requisite skills to assist with daily interactions with managers and peers.

"DCR 402: Managing Diversity, will help students better understand and work with an increasingly diverse workforce. The focus of this class is learning to appreciate diversity among individuals, understand the advantages of a well-managed diverse workforce, recognize and resolve stereotypes and develop creative solutions to manage diversity issues.”

"DCR 403: Contract Management as Negotiator, is designed to help students to develop strategies and approaches for effective negotiations. Students will improve negotiation skills, develop general strategies for successful negotiation, understand myths of negotiation, and produce win-win resolutions for all parties. In the final course, DCR 404: Analyzing Organizational Conflict, gives students an opportunity to develop a conflict resolution program by integrating material from the three previous courses. By applying the principals and techniques learned, students will understand the dynamics and benefits of diagnosing conflict, examine recurrent themes of conflict causes, perform an interest analysis, understand how diversity impacts workplace conflict, negotiate resolutions to conflict, and determine which method of alternative dispute resolution is most appropriate for various workplace conflicts.

Do you dream of running your own business? Nathan offers this advice for prospective entrepreneurs. "Apply your ideas to the information taught at Sullivan. The professors have years of business experience and teach known successful business policies, plans, and practices. The marriage of great classes with the information taught in Sullivan’s business classes is a clear path to success for any entrepreneur."