Paralegal Roundtable returns to rave reviews

Practicing paralegals from the Louisville Metro area and students from Sullivan University for the 18th consecutive Paralegal Roundtable Discussion Series pointed out that this annual event is to provide an opportunity for students to meet with professional professionals willing to share their time and expertise.

Students were especially fortunate this year as two roundtable discussions were conducted – one for the day division and one for the evening division.

The three legal professionals participating in the day division were:
- Tina Brooks, a Paralegal with the Middleton Reutlinger law office and a member of the board of directors of the Louisville Association of Paralegals (LAPA). Tina’s legal work focused on Real Estate Law.
- Paula Peters, a LAPA director who currently serves as treasurer of the Kentucky Paralegal Association. Paula is a Corporate/Public Finance Paralegal at the law office of Frost Brown Todd.
- Melissa Reynolds, a Government Paralegal at the Jefferson County Commonwealth Attorney’s Office. Melissa is also Second Vice President of the LAPA.

Sullivan’s Paralegal program is best for me!

Ever wonder why some students choose Sullivan University for their career education? Here’s a few quick comments from some students in the Paralegal Studies Program.

Shannon Vanhoose: “The legal program is approved by ABA.”

Sellen Ward: “I compared available paralegal programs and thought Sullivan’s would be a better fit, after meeting with an admissions counselor and considering class size, etc., I thought this would be a good experience.”

Diane Rogers: “Sullivan University met my academic needs and my choice of professional studies in the Legal Studies department.”

Lee Ann Saunders: “They took my credits from other schools. As an older student, they have also been extremely helpful working with my work schedule.”

Jean Hunsinger: “Professionalism and a quality teaching program makes it easy to work and progress through program, ability to earn a post-baccalaureate certificate...”

Henry Curtis: “The program is fast.”

Stacie Downs: “I chose Sullivan because of the fact they will help you find a job when you graduate.”

Carrie L. Rhea: “A private institution geared toward adults with small class size and good class interaction.”

Vanessa Chamberlain: “Sullivan had the student/teacher relations I wanted.”

Jennifer Edens: “My sister graduated from Sullivan’s Paralegal Program, which encouraged me to attend.”

The four legal professionals participating in the evening division conducted two roundtable discussions:
- Pam Byerly; a 1998 Sullivan bachelor’s degree graduate and Litigation Paralegal with the law office of Woodward Henson & Fulton. Pam is the president-elect of the LAPA.
- Dennis G. Ogg; Paralegal with the law office of M. Lynne Osterholt, the current LAPA president. She works in Criminal Law and Family Law.


The Roundtable was interesting. Nice to hear practical applications to the skills we are learning.”

Melissa Foster

Great opportunity

All of the speakers took turns explaining their role and function at their respective places of employment. The speakers covered such topics as their job titles, area of law practiced, specific job responsibilities, work environment (contact with other paralegals, judges, attorneys, law clerks, secretaries, etc.), positive/negative aspects of the job, and opportunities for advancement.

Students attending the roundtable discussions were anxious to ask questions, and were provided with honest and direct answers from the speakers. Night student, Shannon Vanhoose, was very pleased to see the “nice diversity” of speakers and liked that the speakers "covered a variety of interests and pursuits with a broad range of possibilities in the paralegal field.”

Another student, Senlin Ward, offered her comments, “It’s very interesting to hear about ‘real life’ work of paralegals. It makes me think. It’s good experience.”

Barely a week had passed, and Senlin had already been offered a job in the paralegal field.

Stacie Downs, another student, said it best, "It was helpful because I've made a good decision.”

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Johnathan Church, a 2008 graduate with a Criminal Justice major, observed, "I'm glad I chose Sullivan University. It's good environment and I will miss it when I graduate.”

Dr. Pina joins Global E-Learning as new Dean of Online Studies

In his 21 years in the field of instructional technology and distance learning, Dr. Anthony A. Piña, Sullivan’s new Dean of Online Studies, has witnessed quite a few changes. “When I completed my masters degree, the World Wide Web was born, new and exciting, and I was nothing as a webmaster or online courses,” he stated, adding, “A few years later, I was a college webmaster and helping my fellow faculty members create their first online courses.”

Impressive credentials

Dr. Piña came to Sullivan from Northern Illinois University in Chicago, where he was Coordinator of Learning Technologies, taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and established the university’s first online program. Previously, he had been on the faculty at California State University, San Bernardino and College of the Desert. He also has taught at a high school and has been a consultant to Fortune 500 corporations (such as Intel and Macy’s), the U.S. Department of Defense, and numerous business and educational organizations.

Dr. Piña is the author of the book “Distance Learning and the Institution” and has several articles published in scholarly journals. He has made more than 100 invited presentations at professional conferences, is on the editorial board of two journals, and is a Past President of the Division of Distance Learning of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT).

Dr. Piña completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Brigham Young University, did post-graduate work at Arizona State University and completed his doctorate at La Sierra University in California. He is a happily married father of six (including two adopted children) and an avid guitar player.

Dr. Piña is implementing new quality standards for online courses at Sullivan. “In the nine years since Sullivan began offering online courses, a good deal of research and best practice for e-learning have emerged. Sullivan plans to take full advantage of the latest developments in e-learning and advance our programs and faculty with a higher level of training and support. We have a wonderful institution, with talented faculty and visionary administrators. My colleagues on the Global E-Learning Team are first-rate. We have the potential to make our Sullivan online courses and programs the best in the nation.”

Dr. Anthony A. Piña

"The Paralegal Roundtable is a tool to prepare us for the expectations of the real job world..." Melissa Foster

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THE AFTERMATH

A pile of branches was a familiar site in Kentucky as businesses and residents began the arduous task of cleaning up after the recent winter ice storms. Sullivan crews used the back side of the Sullivan University’s Louisville campus cleanup site, prompting some to call this area Sullivan’s NEW BRANCH LIBRARY!