

**Paralegal/
Legal Assistant Studies**

Legal Appeal

Family Trivia Challenges Benefit Prairie State



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For the fourth consecutive year, the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies



Program and the LEX Honor Society Alumni will partner with Prairie State

Legal Services to host Prairie State's "Family Trivia Challenges."

On January 27 and March 30, LEX alumni and current PLAS students will bus tables, sell mulligans, and showcase our campus to the "Family Trivia Challenge"

participants. There will be 10 rounds

of trivia and 10 questions per round. The team with the greatest number of correct answers at the end of the event wins a cash prize.



Prairie State Legal Services has offices throughout the state and a local office right here in Kankakee. They provide free or low-cost civil legal services to low-income individuals who could not otherwise afford an attorney.

Our economy has had a negative impact on everyone's budget, but especially on Prairie State's.

These fundraisers are designed to offset governmental budget shortfalls that would otherwise keep Prairie State from helping the people who need it most.

In 2010, Prairie State had 118 attorney and business donors contribute \$21,892.80—\$3,500 of which came from the Family Trivia Challenges. So far in 2011, they have 68 attorney and business donors and have raised \$16,830.95. Their 2011 Campaign goal is \$20,000.



Come join our band of helpers at the 2012 Prairie State Legal Services Family Trivia Challenges!

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FREE Westlaw Training Available to PLAS Students!

Because KCC subscribes to westlaw.com, PLAS students can enroll in FREE, OPTIONAL online training designed exclusively for paralegals!

The sessions are generally an hour long, and some of them are even geared specifically to paralegal research tips and techniques.

To register online, go to: www.westlaw.com.

DO NOT contact West directly, as they will route you back to this site. If you have difficulty registering for these optional sessions, let Ms. Condon know.

- www.kcc.edu/facultysites/kcondon
- FAQs
- Class syllabi
- Back issues of the program newsletter
- E-mail links to program instructors



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IPA Bootcamp at 2012 Legal Careers Day

Mark your calendars now for **Friday, April 20, 2012**, for our fourth annual Legal Careers Day. This year's event will feature a different twist, because we will be hosting the Illinois Paralegal Association's "Paralegal Bootcamp" for newly minted paralegals on our campus.

IPA Bootcamp has been making the rounds of community colleges for a couple of years now, covering topics such as

- **Embracing Your Inner "Techy"—A brief overview of the most recent technology used in law firms**
- **Navigating the Political & Social Waters of a Law Firm**
- **Tick Tock—Making Timekeeping and Billing Your Best Friend**
- **The ABC's of Client Dialogue—You Said vs. They Said**
- **Legal Advice vs. UPL**
- **Do You Have What It Takes?**
- **The Real Story About Legal Recruiters—Who They Are and What They Can Do for Me**
- **Dress for Success—Your Walking Resume**
- **What Is or Isn't Business Casual?**
- **Cultivating Contacts, Internally and Externally**

In addition, **Curtis Linder** of Chicago-based Linder Legal Staffing will return to campus to present his tips on resume presentation and electronic communication with prospective employers. KCC Assistant Dean for Continuing Education and Career Services

Mary Posing will also present a workshop on "Things Attorneys Wish Paralegals Knew."

Unlike last year's Legal Careers Day, which focused on continuing legal education and new student recruitment, this year's event will be all about professional and career development. We have also invited our neighboring paralegal programs at **South Suburban College, Calumet College of St. Joseph, and Illinois State University**, as well as our partners at **Governors State University's Interdisciplinary Studies Program**, to join us for the day.

We have an exciting luncheon program planned, and the whole day will be a great way to kick off the **10th anniversary of the PLAS Program** in May of 2012!

Watch your e-mail for more information about this event; we will also announce upcoming activities in PLAS classes. To join the Illinois Paralegal Association, visit their website at www.ipaonline.org.



News You Can Use

Paralegal Alumni Mentoring Network Assists Students

One of this program's strengths is its alumni, and so we extend special thanks to alumnae **Kris Hubert** (AAS '08) and **Vicky Anderson** (AAS '10), who are co-chairing this year's Paralegal Alumni Mentoring Network. Along with this year's network team members **Eric Curtis** (Advanced Certificate '10), **Chenille Evans** (AAS '11), **Gwen McClinton** (Advanced Certificate '11), **Katie Price** (AAS '10), and Mentoring Network founder **JoAnne Raymond** (AAS '06), the network works with first-semester students in PLAS 1103 (Intro to Paralegal Studies) to help them develop study skills, notetaking ability, and test-taking confidence. Each alum has been assigned three students, and alums keep in contact with these students via e-mail during the semester. If the student requests a meeting or tutorial for special assistance, the alum meets with the student in 30-minute blocks.

The suggestions the network has offered are resulting in improvements to our students' homework assignments and their overall test scores. Thanks for a job well done!

Congratulations to Midyear Alumna

Congratulations to PLAS alumnus **Blythe Black**, who completed her Advanced Certificate in Paralegal/Legal Assistant Studies with the end of the fall semester. Blythe spent the fall semester interning in the Kankakee County Public Defender's Office and

focused on petitions for post-conviction relief under the supervision of Assistant Public Defender Drew Parsons.

In addition to earning the 2011 Patsy A. Lower/LEX Legal Professional Scholarship and the Lucille M. Devine Memorial Scholarship, Blythe was one of only five national winners of the 2010 American Association for Paralegal Education LEX Scholarship, making KCC the only institution in the nation with back-to-back winners for four consecutive years—a record that still stands. Congratulations to Blythe!

2012 LEX Honorary Inductee Named

The PLAS Program is pleased to announce that Kankakee attorney **Jason Cieslik**, a partner in the firm of Barmann, Bohlen, Jacobi & Cieslik, has been named the 2012 LEX Honor Society honorary inductee.

Mr. Cieslik has taught for many years in the Business and Technology Division and has served as our lead Evidence and Real Estate instructor since 2010. Starting in the fall of 2011, Mr. Cieslik began team teaching the Introduction to Paralegal Studies course with Ms. Condon.

The exact date and time for the June 2012 induction ceremony is being finalized now; watch your e-mail for more information.

As part of the PLAS internship class, Ms. Condon will conduct an information session on how to prepare applications for membership into LEX. PLAS students will receive notice of the date, time, and location via e-mail. Deadline for membership applications is March 15 of each year.

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News You Can Use

(Continued from page 3)

LEX membership at KCC is a competitive and challenging process. National LEX guidelines dictate that membership be limited to the students in a program who have completed 2/3 of their PLAS courses with a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Local chapters may establish their own additional criteria. At KCC, student applicants with a 3.75 PLAS GPA submit a five-page legal writing sample on a topic of their choice to the Selection Subcommittee and submit to both a 75-minute controlled writing activity and a 10-minute personal interview.

KCC's LEX Selection Subcommittee consists of members **Randy Chaplinski** (public sector representative), **Jamie Greenley** (the current year's LEX chapter president), **Judge Michael Kick** (judicial representative), **Dennis Marek** (private sector representative), and **Pat Posing** (general public representative).

Please see Ms. Condon if you have questions about the membership process.

Follow PLAS Job Leads on Facebook

Did you know that KCC's Office of Career Services has a Facebook page? And that all incoming job leads are posted there? They are, and you wouldn't believe the opportunities out there! Become a follower on Facebook (www.facebook.com).

In addition, Ms. Condon's faculty web page has links to recruiters who sometimes are looking for entry-level paralegals and state and local

government agencies posting legal-specific job ads. Please check out her web page at www.kcc.edu/facultysites/kcondon.

Register Now for Spring 2012

Remember that Spring Semester begins on Monday, January 9. The following PLAS classes will be offered during Spring 2012 **for students who meet the prerequisites**. If you have questions about course prerequisites, please check KCC's web site or speak with **Dwayne Musick** in Student Services or Ms. Condon:

- 1123 (Legal Research & Writing I); Saturdays (Ms. Condon).
- 1133 (Legal Research & Writing II); Saturdays (Ms. Condon).
- 1213 (Civil Litigation); Wednesdays (Ms. Meyer).
- 2213 (Real Estate); Mondays (Mr. Cieslik).
- 2333 (Laws of Evidence); Thursdays (Mr. Cieslik).
- 2403 (Special Topics); Day and Time TBA (Ms. Condon).
- 2413 (Internship); Mondays (Ms. Condon). **Interns, have your site chosen and contract signed BEFORE the first class.**

LEX Alumni Participate in Diversitree Contest

While you're retrieving your holiday decorations in the coming weeks, look for some red, white, and/or blue decorations to put aside for the LEX Honor Society's "USA Tree." This tree is our entry into the "Diversitree

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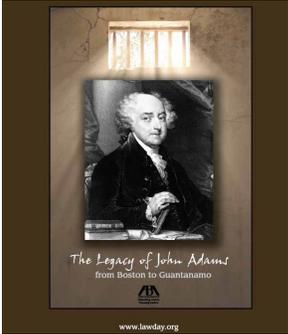
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**Start Here.
Finish Anywhere.**

2011 Legal Careers Day Up for ABA Award

We all knew our 2011 Legal Careers Day event was a hit, but it is nice that the ABA knows about it, too! Last year’s program, based upon the national theme of “The Legacy of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo,” has been nominated for an Outstanding Law Day Programming Award sponsored by the American Bar Association. We had a first-rate team of second-year students who put together an exceptional mock trial opportunity for our prospective students, and their efforts have paid off. The ABA Law Day 2012 Program Planner already contains two photos from our Legal Careers Day event (see www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/public_education/lawday_planner_2012.pdf). By the end of this month, we should know whether we were one of the three nationwide winners for outstanding Law Day programming!



To check on our status, visit www.lawday.org.

Family Trivia Challenges Benefit Prairie State

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To participate in the Family Trivia Challenges, cost is \$10 per person or \$50 for a team of six. Please see Ms. Condon if you are interested in having a team. To give directly to Prairie State, visit www.pslegal.org.

We also need volunteers for both events, so please contact Ms. Condon if you are interested in volunteering. . . . It’s a great networking opportunity!



LEX Alumni Enter “Diversitree” Contest

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Contest” sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Development. Each club and organization has been given a tree to decorate and must choose a country for their tree-decorating theme. LEX has chosen a red, white, and blue USA theme.

We encourage you to come out on **Wednesday, November 30, at 5:30 p.m.** to help us decorate the tree. We’ll have pizza and salad so you can eat and decorate. We’ll also need help on **Thursday, December 14, at 5:30 p.m.** taking decorations down.

If you can’t decorate, but want to participate, please drop your decorations (labeled with your name so we can return them) off in Ms. Condon’s office in D116. Did we mention the winning entry receives a \$100 prize, which could go a long way to making

a nice Legal Careers Day event for everyone? Come join us!

