

The Value of a Paralegal

Susan Macken Brandi Stewart

The Akron Bar Paralegal Section began in 2008 and for eleven years this community of paralegals has promoted and expanded on the value of our profession. Monthly lunch-and-learns provide the time to further our skill set and knowledge, while networking with other paralegals. Continuing legal education credits are provided (approved by the OSBA) for members, which can help a paralegal with the OSBA Certification requirement. We have enjoyed spending much time this year organizing speakers and lunch sponsors, and spreading the word to local paralegals and students. **The Section meets at the Akron Bar Association from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, with the exception of December, July and August.**

The paralegal title was created in the 1970's and today the concept of trained paralegals performing all kinds of legal work has emerged. Most people know what a paralegal does, but how a paralegal conducts his or her job is of great importance. A valuable paralegal is well-trained, skillful, and enthusiastic. Their willingness to pitch in and help allows them to gain valuable knowledge. One of their greatest assets is adaptability. A paralegal can adapt to the style of a lawyer, while rising above the hectic deadline-driven industry that they work in. A paralegal works side-by-side with the lawyer, who stands responsible for everything that a paralegal touches. The lawyer/paralegal partnership is one of complimentary opposites: Strategy v. Technicality, Overview v. Detail Analysis and Plan v. Execution. This partnership provides an efficiency that allows the legal team to cater to each client's individual needs.

We welcome the paralegals of the Akron legal community to connect and grow with us at our monthly section events.