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NFPA News



Registration is open for the NFPA 2014 Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. Convention dates are October 9-12, 2014.

SAVE THE DATE



NFPA 2015 Joint Conference will take place May 1-3, 2015 in Portland, Oregon – the City of Roses.

See NFPA's website for more details.
www.paralegal.org

Paralegal Gets Federal Funding for PCCE Exam

By: Linda Odermott, RP® and Perla X. Caballero-Hoblit

In late June of this year, Perla X. Caballero-Hoblit, one of Oregon Paralegal Association's (OPA) members, was laid off from her paralegal position. Perla is very active with OPA's Board of Directors as the Associate Representative and was also working to advance her career by participating in the Certification Workshop OPA hosted in February of this year. The Workshop motivated her to start participating in a study group in preparation for taking the Paralegal CORE Competency Exam (PCCE).

She applied for unemployment benefits with Workforce Development Services, after applying with the Oregon Unemployment Department, and began discussing options that were available to assist in her job search. During those conversations, she discovered that one of the benefits offered to unemployed professionals is the ability to request federal funding under the *Workforce Investment Act* with the Department of Labor for exams, fees and courses to receive certification for a High Demand Profession. However, in Oregon, the Workforce Development Services have narrowly defined which certifications they would approve for this funding. This was being translated into only approving requests for trade certifications such as for plumbers or truck drivers. This did not make sense to Ms. Caballero-Hoblit. Why would they pay for one certification, but not others?

Ms. Caballero-Hoblit decided to self-advocate and request federal funding for the PCCE application, the Advanced Paralegal Institute (API) online review course and the exam. There was no guarantee that the Department would honor her request and to her knowledge, no other State's Unemployment Department has previously approved a request to fund paralegal certification. If approved, this could be a landmark decision giving rise to many other unemployed paralegals seeking out the use of these funds for paralegal certification. Ms. Caballero-Hoblit presented her request, but not surprisingly, the request was not well received. In fact, they were so skeptical about granting Ms. Caballero-Hoblit's request that she had to do an entire presentation in order to convince her Workforce Development Services Advisor to give her approval.

It is never fun to be unemployed and to have to figure out a career path. I was asked during orientation at the Workforce, "Is there anything that will help you stand out?" My response was "I think passing the Paralegal CORE Certification would help me." During this simple question and answer session, I was able to talk about how certification for paralegals was at its infancy, but soon will be seen as a necessary item for paralegals. I was then given an appointment with a Workforce Advisor with Workforce Development Services.



Interested in PCCE or PACE Credentials?

The Next API PCCE and AIPS PACE Review Course Begin August 18, 2014. To Learn More Visit NFPA's Website. www.paralegal.org

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**Article Suggestions?
New Ideas?**



Please send information to Suzanne Sitter, NFPA Editorial Coordinator editorial@paralegals.org

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This first meeting was not very favorable to me; there was several "no's" with me asking, "Please explain?" We ended that first meeting with the request for me to return with a presentation for the Advisor with reasons why this was not only important to myself, but to other fellow paralegals. That afternoon I made several phone calls and emails to gather as much information to show to the Advisor that this was not only going to help my professional career, but my fellow paralegal professionals, as well.

In this final meeting, I had to show her why her approval was really needed. I gave her my presentation that included:

- Budget worksheets of all my finances;
- Current trends and regulation for paralegals, including the recent LLLT Program introduced this year in Washington;
- The eligibility requirements for PCCE;
- An outline of the API PCCE Online Review Course;
- A letter from the Oregon Paralegal Association Certification Ambassador, outlining information about paralegal certification, current trends in the industry (including the LLLT program rolled out in Washington this year), my expected performance on the exam based upon my performance on the practice exam given at the Certification Workshop; my expected performance on the PCCE given participation in the API online review course; as well as, how this challenge will make me a trailblazer in the paralegal community when I get approval for this funding; and
- Create a plan of action/timeline for receiving the funding and setting guidelines with the Advisor and myself for completing the tasks (*this was at my own behest*).

This was all very well received and I was granted funding for not only the test, but also the review course. It was a wonderful feeling to know that I was able to receive this funding and to create an authentic relationship with the Department of Development Services and become a trailblazer for paralegals who are unemployed and will be asked "Do you feel that Certification will help you in your career advancement?"

Perla X. Caballero-Hoblit

On Monday, June 30, 2014, the Workforce Development Services Department approved Ms. Caballero-Hoblit's request for federal funding to apply, study, and sit for the PCCE. She is currently enrolled in the API online course and hopes to sit for the exam in the fall. I hope her story inspires you to advocate for your own paralegal career. This is a huge decision for the advancement of the paralegal profession and I just want to congratulate Ms. Caballero-Hoblit for spearheading this decision that benefits the entire paralegal profession.

Linda Odermott, RP®
OPA Certification Ambassador

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Your Client has a Story, How to Choose A Litigation Video Company

Submitted by: Cathie Reese, President Geomatrix Productions, Inc.

Not everyone with a camera can produce a video that will stand up in court. Video prepared for litigation has the Rules of Evidence to consider. A firm that specializes in legal video production will provide a level of service far different than the videographer who takes on a "legal job" to fill in the time between weekend wedding gigs or "other stuff." A legal specialty company should ask you a number of probing questions to help determine what you need, and most importantly, what it will cost. The following will help you make the right choice as you plan your litigation video.

Is your video a deposition?

This means that someone (usually a court reporter) must be on hand to swear in the witness and create the transcript. Today's litigation videographers work closely with court reporters to provide such services as real time transcription and CD synchronization of the video and text. The videographer should assure you that there are simultaneous recordings in case of technical failure, and that there is an archive system in place.

Is the video for use at trial or will it be used for settlement negotiations?

This is a very important distinction when scheduling a video that is not a deposition. Video prepared for trial must conform to the rules of evidence. However, video designed for use in settlement negotiations can be created with persuasion in mind.

If it is a trial video, is it a Day in the Life documentary, or is it demonstrative evidence?

The Day in the Life documentary is a carefully prepared video of the condition of the plaintiff at a given point in time. It is generally recorded in one day and is well-crafted to both tell the story and meet the rules of evidence.

Demonstrative evidence may include, but is not limited to, a simple recording of a therapy session, an actual or animated accident reconstruction, an interview, a site survey and more.

If it is a settlement video, will it cover liability as well as damages?

Successful settlement videos can be designed to tell the entire story of the case or they may be limited to a compelling re-telling of the damages suffered. If liability is included, the resulting video is more comprehensive, often requiring a narrative to be drafted by the attorney and then turned into script format by the production company.

Be prepared to discuss resource material with the video producer. Evidence such as 911 recordings, accident photos and family photos provide a creative producer with a wealth of material to prepare a comprehensive and effective program. If 3D animation is considered or recommended, provide police diagrams and reports; connect the motion graphics artist with the engineer.

Finally, be comfortable as to how you are treated as a prospective client by the video company.