

Support for Paralegal Students at Lakeland

Paralegal Scholarship

The Paralegal Scholarship was established by Pam Giordano in July 2003, to provide a flexible, need-based scholarship for paralegal students attending Lakeland Community College. Full or part-time students in the field of paralegal studies may qualify for the award to help with tuition, fees, and books.

Lakeland Paralegal Association

The Lakeland Student Activities office sponsors a group specifically for paralegal students. The purpose of the Paralegal Association is to promote interest, awareness and academic excellence of the paralegal program. The organization also strives to promote and expand interests and opportunities in the field for paralegals and paralegal students at Lakeland Community College.



Paralegal Internships

Lakeland's paralegal program concludes with work experience to offer students first-hand experience in the field.

Rigorous classroom work prepares students for the 100-hour internship. Typical placements include law offices, corporate or government-based legal settings.

Internships offer an effective way for companies to locate motivated students to fill immediate needs, as well as create a pipeline of talent for a future workforce.

"Lakeland's paralegal program is an extremely rewarding experience. I attribute my success in the field to Lakeland's paralegal program and the strong direction and advice I received from the instructors. In fact, Laura Barnard is still a mentor. Her advice and instruction continue to go far beyond the call of duty. I gained useful skills and industry knowledge that have been a huge asset to not only myself, but also to colleagues and potential employers."

Dawn S. Urban, Paralegal Manager - Elk & Elk Attorneys at Law Associate of Applied Business Paralegal Studies



To learn more about Lakeland's paralegal internship program, call 440.525.7352 or email bgabriel@lakelandcc.edu.

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Est. 1989

Lakeland

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PARALEGAL

In 1989, Lakeland's paralegal* program was established to provide Greater Cleveland's legal community with top-notch, qualified legal assistants to assist with legal services to clients.

Since then, Lakeland's paralegal graduates have permeated the community and can be found in law offices, courts, corporations and government institutions throughout the region.

Lakeland's paralegal studies program voluntarily underwent the rigorous requirements to meet the standards set forth by the American Bar Association and has met their approval since 1993.

This hallmark of distinction ensures that students from Lakeland's paralegal program enter the workforce with the practical skills and know-how needed to succeed in a demanding, but rewarding, career in the legal profession.

Lakeland students receive an educational credential which makes them eligible for the Ohio State Bar Association paralegal certification.



*Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law. Ohio prohibits the practice of law by non-lawyers.

What our graduates have to say ...

"Lakeland's paralegal program provided me with an opportunity to turn a degree into a career.

I attended a four-year liberal arts university, graduating with a degree in politics and government and English, with no idea of how to translate my scholarly pursuits into the workforce. Attending Lakeland's paralegal program provided that transition for me.

Professor Laura Barnard's personal attention to my career goals, both in the classroom and in an advisory capacity, allowed me to make informed choices regarding my future. In today's competitive legal market, it was just what I needed to prepare myself for a successful career as a litigation paralegal!"

Jill Sustar - Litigation Paralegal, Ulmer & Berne, L.L.P.
Paralegal Studies Certificate

"I was already working in the intellectual property department of my company when I had my review and my manager said that I needed to improve my writing skills. So I turned to Lakeland and enrolled in the paralegal program. I was excited to see that they were approved by the American Bar Association. I learned to write legal briefs and documents. The instructors were so helpful and patient, especially when I didn't think I had the confidence to complete the tasks. The end result was that I was given more responsibility at work, a title change, and was given the opportunity to help with our litigation."

Deborah Powers - Paralegal/Patent Coordinator, ABB Inc.
Paralegal Studies Certificate

"I enrolled in Lakeland's paralegal studies program mainly for its proximity to home and its status as an ABA-approved program. Also important was the paralegal certificate program, which would allow me to finish in one year, as I already had a bachelor's degree.

I was impressed by the quality of Lakeland's instructors from day one. All of my classes were taught by dedicated, knowledgeable attorneys who were focused on teaching the practical skills that effective paralegals need to know.

My two semesters at Lakeland have paid enormous dividends, giving me both the basic legal knowledge and the confidence to throw myself into new tasks at my job."

Benjamin Pogany - Paralegal, Jones Day
Paralegal Studies Certificate

"I found Lakeland's paralegal studies program to be well-rounded, and designed to prepare students for success in a wide range of employment settings. Without exception, Lakeland's paralegal faculty members provide relevant instruction and personal attention. My employer advertised my position at Lakeland because he knew that Lakeland's graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary to make an immediate impact in the workplace."

Kevin McCabe - Bailiff, Lake County Common Pleas Court
Paralegal Studies Certificate

lakelandcc.edu/paralegal



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Did You Know ...

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, paralegal and legal assistant occupations are expected to increase by 17 percent through 2022.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook March 2012.

"I chose Lakeland because of the paralegal program, which I believed would assist me in law school. While I knew that I wanted to be an attorney from a very young age, this college is also a wonderful choice for those who are undecided.

The education I received at Lakeland helped me successfully pass both the Ohio and Florida bar exams the first time, while many friends did not, because I had practical real world experience.

Also, because Lakeland offers a great education at an affordable cost, I was able to begin law school without monstrous loans from undergrad like many of my colleagues.

Upon graduation from law school, I was offered a position while many others who went to other schools for undergraduate study did not."

Lori Kilpeck, J.D., Attorney - Ziegler, Metzger & Miller, L.L.P.
Associate of Applied Business, Paralegal Studies

"The instructors are knowledgeable, easy to approach and enjoy what they are teaching – they make it fun. I would definitely recommend Lakeland's paralegal program to anyone who is seeking to better him or herself."

Kelly Tomsik, Paralegal/Attorney Assistant - Diemert & Associates
Associate of Applied Business, Paralegal Studies Program student

"Entering the Paralegal program at Lakeland as a PSEO student at the age of 15 was the best choice I ever made. The law profession is a daunting field of study at any age, let alone for someone who was a teenager still in high school. However, the instructors at Lakeland have so many years of experience in all facets of legal practice allowing them to offer real world insight and actual case study to teach in a manner that is second to none.

The program director and the instructors show true interest and compassion for their students and always make themselves available to each student. The director of the program shows her compassion by continuing to keep in contact with her students even past graduation.

Having such a wide variety of experienced instructors helped to guide me in my decision as to what type of law firm I would like to join upon graduation. Thanks to the wonderful work and dedication put into Lakeland's Paralegal program, I was a direct hire after completing my internship and I am proud to say two years after graduating from the program, I still work for the firm I joined."

Jaimee L. Bowen, Paralegal - Hanahan & Hinton, LLC
Associate of Applied Business, Paralegal Studies



Lakeland Community College Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee

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