

Immigration Attorney Magdalena Cuprys continues series of published articles about Legal Assistants

There is an evolving group of legal assistants that ascend the ranks to act almost like attorneys, similar to Nurse Practitioners in medical practice.

MIAMI, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, December 2, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Florida Immigration lawyer [Magdalena Cuprys](#) has published the next article in her four-part series on the paralegal profession. The complete articles will be published on the blog of [Ms. Cuprys](#) at <https://magdalenacuprysblog.blogspot.com/>

A New Trend: "Paraprofessionals" such as Licensed Legal Technicians or "Limited License Legal Technicians"

There may be an evolving group of Paralegals that ascend the ranks to act almost like attorneys, similar to Nurse Practitioners who in many cases diagnose and treat health conditions. In civil law cases, there are proposals pending (or already implemented in certain States, as explained below) to address the day-to-day legal need of those unable or unwilling to hire a full-fledged Attorney. This includes the commonplace legal needs of

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low to moderate-income people by authorizing limited practice by licensed non-lawyers, now known as "paraprofessionals." This is easy to understand. Many procedures or applications are difficult to understand for "normal" people who are not exposed to them on a daily basis. For example, even forms provided by Courts to make certain filings simpler and possibly enable people to file the forms or applications themselves without the assistance of an Attorney are quite difficult to understand that at least some explanation is still required. This concept has been gradually gaining acceptance. Unlike Paralegals, such paraprofessionals provide services without the direct supervision of an attorney. At this point, two state supreme courts have embraced the "licensed

legal technician" concept, and other jurisdictions are closely monitoring its viability.

Given the high percentage of self-represented parties in courtrooms around the country, some

advocates believe regulated legal paraprofessionals (charging lower fees) can help narrow the access-to-justice gap. That may one day be the case, but the paraprofessional model and its efficacy in addressing this disparity remain unproven, and ethical rules prevent such a system at least at present.

Washington State pioneered the “limited license” model. In 2013, after years of study, the Washington State Supreme Court adopted the concept of the “Limited License Legal Technician” (LLLT) to perform specific legal services in the area of domestic relations. LLLTs are subject to stringent requirements, which include obtaining an Associate’s degree or higher and completing additional specified coursework; performing 3,000 hours of Paralegal work; passing three law and ethics exams, as well as a character and fitness review. Further, they must also complete a licensing program, satisfy financial responsibility requirements, as well as continuing legal education, and meet malpractice insurance requirements. LLLTs are subject to rules of professional conduct and a disciplinary process similar to those that apply to attorneys. The Board that oversees the LLLT program is now considering expanding the subject matter areas in which paraprofessionals may practice to include consumer debt law.

Several other U.S. States are now following this example. The scope of permissible work for “limited license” paraprofessionals differs under these various models that have been proposed. It generally includes assistance to clients in understanding legal proceedings and completing court forms and other form documents, but does not include appearing for a client in court or at depositions, or taking on complex legal matters. For example, LLLTs in Washington currently may not represent a client in mediated negotiations, but they may do so in Utah.

One of the main reasons for this development is the realization that there is massive need for some form of representation in civil law areas for vast numbers of the population that are attempting self-representation due to limited access to attorneys (mostly due to financial restraints). This is in spite of legal aid societies as well as significant pro bono attorney services. A large number of individuals continue to represent themselves in these areas and could benefit



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from paraprofessionals.

This access-to-justice disparity has prompted State Bars and court systems to promote other forms of nonlawyer assistance to pro se parties, including courthouse navigators and facilitators (examples are Arizona, New York, California, and Washington), and legal document preparers (Arizona, California, and Nevada). Many other States are looking into other forms of permissible assistance ("judicially-authorized-and-regulated legal service providers") to help address the problem of unmet legal needs.

To be continued. - The complete articles will be published on the Blog of Ms. Cuprys at <https://magdalenacuprysblog.blogspot.com/>

About [Magdalena Ewa Cuprys](#)

Magdalena Cuprys is the principal of Serving Immigrants, a full-service immigration law firm offering a complete range of immigration services to both businesses and individuals. The law firm is uniquely qualified to manage the most contentious and unusual immigration needs.

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The Law Firm Cuprys & Associates is a full service, dynamic, and trustworthy law firm that specializes in immigration matters. The law firm is uniquely qualified to manage the most contentious and unusual immigration needs. Swift resolution of immigration-related issues is integral to a client's ability to conduct business or reach their personal goals in the United States. Located in Miami and Clewiston, the firm's offices provide corporate and individual clients of foreign nationality with temporary work permits for the U.S., green card petitions, criminal waivers and representation in removal proceedings cases. With over a decade of experience, the law firm provides clients with the confidence that their cases will be handled by an expert who understands their needs and how to obtain their goals. Although the majority of the law firm's clients live in Florida, it represents people from all over the United States and several foreign countries.

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Services

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