

Alabama Family Lawyer Ayn Traylor-Sadberry publishes final article in her series on "Paralegals"

In final article of the Paralegal series, Ayn Traylor-Sadberry reviews types of paralegals and their work assignments.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES, December 22, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Concluding her publication of articles on the Paralegal profession, Alabama Family Law Attorney [Ayn Traylor-Sadberry](#) reviews types of paralegals and their work assignments. The complete articles will be published on the Blog of [Ms. Traylor-Sadberry](#) at <https://AynTraylorSadberryBlog.blogspot.com>

The Paralegal Role in the Legal Profession

In general, Paralegals are qualified to perform their responsibilities by completing an educational program, receiving training on the job, or through actual work experience. They do not undergo the rigorous training of Attorneys, nor are they licensed like attorneys. Paralegals sometimes perform "legal" work that otherwise would be done by attorneys. However, the supervising Attorneys remain fully responsible for any legal work delegated to a Paralegal and must always supervise the Paralegal's work. There are several different types of Paralegals, the designation depends upon the required education and training. Examples are:

"Certified Paralegal"

A Certified Paralegal is a Paralegal who has completed the voluntary certification process of a professional association by developing a specified level of professional competency. The various accreditation bodies include: The National Association of Paralegals (NALA) which awards the designation of CP (Certified Paralegal) and CLA (Certified Legal Assistant) to those who meet their specific requirements and complete the competency examination. NALA also governs certain Advanced Specialty Certifications (CLAS) programs, and there also exist certain state-specific advanced competency exams.

"Registered Paralegal"



Attorney Ayn Traylor Sadberry, attorney in Alabama

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) awards the designation Registered Paralegal (RP) to persons who have met its requirements, which requires passing a specific competency examination known as the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam (PACE).

“Professional Paralegal”

The National Association for Legal Professionals (NALP) awards the Professional Paralegal (PP) certification designation which reflects a proficiency in procedural law, substantive law and an overall commitment to a higher standard of conduct and professionalism. NALP's Professional Paralegals may distinguish themselves further by earning Specialty Certifications in various substantive law areas.

Paralegal Work Assignments

Paralegals can be delegated any task normally performed by a lawyer, as long as the lawyer supervises the work (except those specifically proscribed by law). For example, Paralegals can review and organize client files, conduct factual and legal research, prepare documents for legal transactions, draft pleadings and discovery notices, interview clients and witnesses, and assist at closings and trials. But Paralegals (and their supervising Attorneys) must always avoid the “unauthorized practice of law.” Generally, Paralegals may not represent clients in court, take depositions, or sign pleadings.

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Additional benefits to the firm as well as the community is the usage of Paralegals in Pro Bono activities and services. Paralegals enhance the ability of law firms to provide more pro bono”
Ayn Traylor-Sadberry, attorney in Alabama

separately, and at lower rates for the clients. Such staff may increase client satisfaction and provide a significant additional income stream for the law practice if managed effectively. Additional benefits to the firm as well as the community is the usage of Paralegals in Pro Bono

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Friday, August 3, 2018

Ayn Traylor-Sadberry - In proceeding to enforce Texas damages judgment against mother who abducted child to Russia, English Court of Appeal (Civil Division) reverses dismissal for lack of jurisdiction over defendant since she had taken part in the divorce proceedings where decree had ordered child's retention in Hague Convention nation though plaintiff had sought damages under Texas family law rather than contempt of decree

Blog of attorney Ayn Traylor Sadberry

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In addition, Paralegals may not establish the attorney's relationship with the client or set fees to be charged, and may not give legal advice to a client.

The continued usage of Paralegals in the profession is also a mandate of pure economics. Paralegals significantly reduce attorney burden and costs. In many instances it affords the practitioner the ability to lower legal fees in certain practice areas. They are also extremely valuable in their ability to maintain increased client communication and contact which further enhances client satisfaction and customer service. Paralegals also are of tremendous economic value to the law firm or office, as their hourly time spent on individual cases may be billed to the client

activities and services. Paralegals enhance the ability of law firms to provide significantly more pro bono legal services as they could have through attorneys alone.

Supervising Attorneys remain ultimately liable for Paralegal work

As in every aspect of the practice of law, utilizing Paralegal services comes with corresponding ethical considerations for the attorney or firm. Attorneys are ultimately responsible for the work product of Paralegals. Even more, Attorneys are also responsible for the ethical conduct of the Paralegals whom they employ. Any transgressions by the Paralegals may subject the Attorney to professional discipline. This is due to the fact that Paralegals are not directly subject to any rules of professional conduct promulgated by courts, legislatures, or government agencies, the (supervising) Attorneys are. However, Paralegals who are members of national and/or local Paralegal associations are required to follow the ethical codes of those associations.

Billing issues for Paralegal Work

As pertains to fees and compensation, a Paralegal's substantive legal work (i.e., that which is not clerical) may be billed directly to the client just as an attorney's work is billed, or considered in setting a flat fee just as that of an attorney's work. Attorneys may compensate Paralegals based on the quantity and quality of their work and the value of that work to the law practice. Paralegal compensation, however, may not be in any way based on a contingency, by advance agreement, or on the specific outcome of a particular case. In addition, Attorneys may not split any legal fees with Paralegals nor compensate Paralegals for the referral of legal business. They are also not permitted to be a partner or shareholder in a law firm.

Where to get Paralegal Education

As previously mentioned, the educational programs for Paralegals widely vary. These programs may or may not be approved or accredited. Those educational programs that are affiliated with a college or university may offer Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees, and/or certificates, which may be classified as undergraduate or post-baccalaureate certificates. Proprietary schools generally offer certificate programs. Educational programs are also available via The American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), NALS – the Association of Legal Professionals, the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA), the National Association of Paralegals (NALA), and the American Alliance of Paralegals (AAIPI) have developed accredited curriculum.

Conclusion

Alabama Attorneys

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LinkedIn Profile of Attorney Ayn Traylor Sadberry

Paralegals play an indispensable role in the legal profession, and if the predictions are correct, that indispensable role will continue to expand as economic pressures force law firms and businesses to become ever more cost-effective. While the job outlook for Paralegals is bright, this may adversely affect Attorneys, whose work will migrate as much as technically and ethically possible to Paralegals. Just as a doctor's workload may in part be handled by nurses or nurse practitioners, a lawyer's workload will end up where it is most cost-effective (subject to professional and ethical rules). The only constant in life is change, and this is just another example of how times are changing. The drum computer has to a large extent replaced the drummer in a band or studio recording. The remote-controlled drone has in part replaced the fighter pilot. The taxi driver may soon be replaced by Google's or Uber's self-driving cars. To say it with Bob Dylan, the Times They Are A-Changin and the profession must adapt to new economic realities.

The complete articles will be published on the Blog of Ms. Traylor-Sadberry at <https://AynTraylorSadberryBlog.blogspot.com>

About Ayn Traylor-Sadberry

Ayn Traylor-Sadberry is a domestic relations & family law attorney in Birmingham, Alabama. [Ms. Traylor Sadberry](#) received her B.A. degree in 1966 from the University of Oklahoma, her M.A. in 1973 from the Oklahoma City University, and her Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law in 1981. She was admitted as an attorney in Alabama in 1989.

References

Law Firm Website: <http://www.traylorsadberry.com>

News at: <https://hype.news/ayn-traylor-sadberry-attorney-in-alabama-usa/n-026efe87-ae37-4957-9673-81d146a5bde6/stories>

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