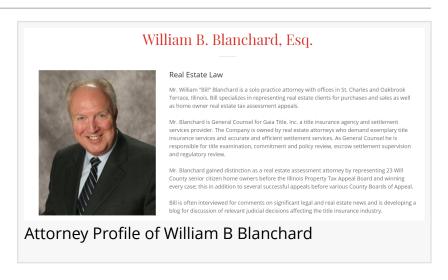


## Continuing series of published articles, real estate lawyer William Blanchard reviews Paralegal Training

In his most recent published article in a series on legal assistants, real estate lawyer William Blanchard reviews training and work assignments

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES, December 13, 2018 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Continuing the publication of his articles on legal assistants in the law office, Illinois-based real estate attorney William Blanchard has issued an article on



training and work assignments. The complete articles will be published on the blog of Mr. Blanchard at https://williamblanchardblog.blogspot.com/



Doomsday talk persisted that technology was set to fully replace the Paralegal industry ... one major law firm today uses highly sophisticated software for research previously conducted by Paralegals"

William "Bill" Blanchard, Real Estate Lawyer

Paralegals are a key component of an efficient law practice, and their role continues to expand. In fact, the job outlook (unlike for many other professions) is quite bright.

Paralegals must undergo specific education, training and/or work experience and are utilized by many different employers, including individual practitioners, law firms, corporations and various government agencies. Different certifications and credentials are available to classify the Paralegal experience. In the traditional law firm setting, the Paralegal's time is primarily spent on substantive legal work which is billed to clients at market rates, similar to other professional staff, but at a significantly lower rate than would be charged had an Attorney been solely

utilized to handle such work, as was standard in the past. This hourly billing option distinguishes Paralegals from other non-lawyer staff members. However, many legal or quasi-legal organizations do not specifically bill for Paralegal time, such as Real Estate Title Firms, Immigration Law Firms, or Bankruptcy practices. Thus, in many organizations, time spent on

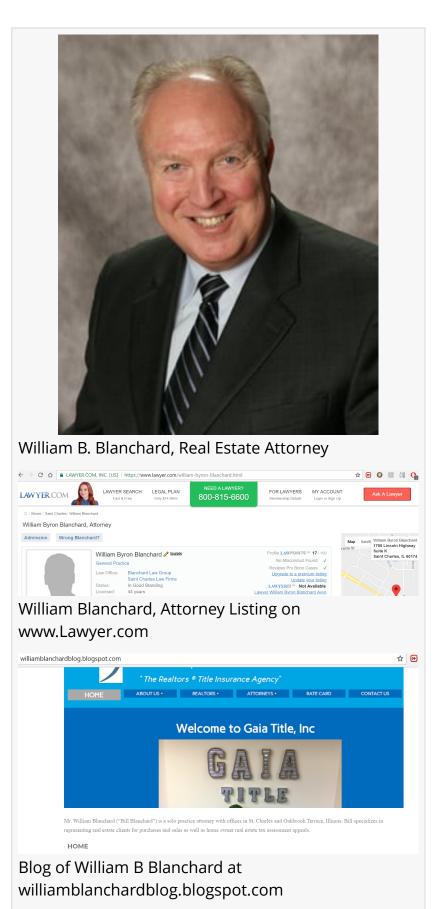
administrative or clerical functions is not billable to the client's case.

Due to Ethical Rules, Paralegals will never completely replace Lawyers. Only licensed attorneys may give "legal advice" to clients, and ethical rules in all U.S. States are uniform in that Paralegals are strictly prohibited from doing so. Paralegals also are prohibited from directly accepting a client's case, setting any fees, or representing a client in court (unless specifically authorized by the court, see below). All U.S. States require attorneys to be licensed and most have regulations imposing strict penalties for anyone who engages in the unauthorized practice of law. In fact, there are rules requiring appropriate supervision of Paralegals.

The largest employers of Paralegals within the legal profession are, naturally, law firms. However, businesses, corporations and governmental entities are large Paralegal employers as well. Paralegals are found in every area work of legal practice, ranging from business litigation, bankruptcy law practice, estate planning, personal injury law, immigration, and corporate law. In fact, Paralegals are now common in virtually every legal practice area.

Strong Need for Paralegals Continues

Doomsday talk persisted in the recent past that technology was set to fully



replace the Paralegal industry as a result of software upgrades and automated advances. At least one major law firm today uses highly sophisticated software for research previously conducted

by Paralegals and even Attorneys.
Many predicted the end of the
Paralegal profession. The Associated
Press issued a report in 2013 which
claimed that an increasing number of
Attorneys were using software and
other technologies to do the work
previously performed by Paralegal
staff. It is certainly true that such
software and technologies can enable
solo practitioners to handle most or all
of their workload without the need for
any Paralegal. However, in 2014 the



Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasted a continuing positive growth rate of 8 percent growth from 2014 to 2024, and then in 2016 readjusted that figure to a 15 percent growth from 2016 to 2026 – again documenting continued growth from its original projection.

This information is confirmed by the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET), an online database that contains hundreds of occupational definitions to help job seekers, businesses and workforce development professionals to understand educational and occupational trends in today's economy in the United States. O\*NET was developed under the sponsorship of the US Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) in the 1990s. According to O\*NET, the future outlook for Paralegals is bright.

The complete articles will be published on the blog of Mr. Blanchard at <a href="https://williamblanchardblog.blogspot.com/">https://williamblanchardblog.blogspot.com/</a>

About William B. "Bill" Blanchard

<u>William B. Blanchard</u> is a real estate attorney with offices in St. Charles and Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Bill specializes in representing real estate clients for purchases and sales as well as home owner real estate tax assessment appeals. Mr. Blanchard gained distinction as a real estate assessment attorney by representing 23 Will County senior citizen home owners before the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and winning every case; this in addition to several successful appeals before various County Boards of Appeal.

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