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The Paralegal Association of Wisconsin, Inc. Post-Death Trust and Estate Administration



WHAT MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND WHY?

The CLE credits offered in a variety of subject areas because I can learn about issues affecting other jurisdictions as well as my own.

WHAT MADE YOU BECOME A PARALEGAL?

I had always been interested in the law since high school. I took the LSAT in college, but then discovered a life in Europe as a student and teacher. However, I never lost an interest in the law. After I earned a master's degree from a European University, a fellow student told me about a law degree program from the University of London that would allow me to travel and work where I wished while earning a law degree. During my studies, I worked for a US-based law firm in Hungary as a corporate paralegal. I discovered that being a paralegal could be just as beneficial and important as being an attorney. When my European life turned into a life back stateside, my English law degree was not acceptable to the Wisconsin State Bar, but I was able to find work as a legal assistant, which became

a hybrid paralegal-legal assistant role. A few years ago, I started working for my current firm as a full-time paralegal and have loved the challenges and experiences it has provided to me. Although there will always be a part of me who wonders what I may have accomplished as an attorney, I think my personality is better suited to a paralegal. I feel extremely comfortable in my profession and the opportunities that my profession provides.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE/MEMORABLE MOMENT OF YOUR CAREER SO FAR?

Any time one of my attorneys comes to me to discuss a legal question or issue as a colleague, not as a subordinate. I'm very fortunate to work with attorneys who value my opinion and seek it out.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE AN ASPIRING PARALEGAL?

It's ok if you try a practice area and don't like it. Just like with all careers, sometimes the one that we envision will be perfect for us may not be that great. Sometimes, an area that you think would never interest you or be suitable for you turns out to be ideal. I thought I would never leave litigation, but then took a job in post-death trust and administration and discovered a world of new information and challenges. Although I don't think I could ever do anything other than post-death work, someday, I may find that another area offers intrigue and new challenges for me.

WHAT IS THE COOLEST/MOST IMPORTANT TREND YOU SEE TODAY (IN THE LEGAL FIELD)?

The growth of paralegal professional regulation and the support that more attorneys are providing to their paralegals. We still have a long way to go, but paralegals are understood more today than in the past, and some attorneys and firms are offering compensation and opportunities to their paralegals in recognition of that fact.

WHAT I KNOW NOW THAT I WISH I'D KNOW THEN?

I'm not always right, nor do I need to be. But I can always seek out an answer and try to contribute to the conversation.

IF I WEREN'T A PARALEGAL, I WOULD BE . . .

a travel writer.

A PARALEGAL IS . . .

a dynamic professional who uses their experience, education, and intellect to resolve substantive legal problems while improving efficiencies on their team to achieve the best result for the client.