

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2010

Inside this issue:

District II Report	2
New Certified Paralegals	2
Board of Directors	3
Fall Seminar Report	4
NALA Connection	6
Important NALA Information	8
"Benefits Tip the Scale"	9
Job Postings	10

FROM THE PRESIDENT: ALISON BARTHEL JACOBSON, CP



It is my pleasure to be serving as the President of this tremendous organization in the coming year. I have big shoes to fill following the outstanding leadership and ideas of the past president, Loretta Phillips. Her vision for giving back to the members and promoting certification will certainly be a hard act to follow. Luckily, she remains on the Board of Directors and will continue to provide us with the sage wisdom and guidance we have all come to expect.

I am also excited to be working with a great group of people that comprise YOUR Board of Directors. Christina Koch, ACP, President Elect, brings years of experience and fresh ideas to her position. The President Elect is chairperson of the Seminar Committee and I look forward to more great education opportunities to be available for our membership under her leadership and guidance. Kim Hansen is once again our Vice President. Kim has done a tremendous job at keeping track of everyone, keeping everyone updated with the various announcements that affect all of us and answering those miscellaneous questions that come her way. We have a newly elected Secretary in Carla Larson, ACP. Carla has done a great job as the past District 2 Director and I look forward to her input and expertise on a number of matters in the coming year. You have also elected a new Treasurer in Jaci O'Brien, ACP, MBA. I am excited to have such a qualified officer in the Treasurer position. Her knowledge of finance as well as her past service as Secretary will be a great asset for our organization.

Our Parliamentarian, Laurie Vik, CP, is also no stranger to service to the membership. She will bring tremendous knowledge and information to her position as Parliamentarian. This year's NALA Liaison is Kimberly Brown, ACP. This year will be especially busy for the NALA Liaison as she will travel to Dallas for the 2011 NALA National Convention. I have no doubt Kim will do an outstanding job promoting Omaha and NePA in anticipation of the 2012 convention in Omaha.

We have two new board members in the District Director positions this year. Ruth Bahr, District 1 Director, has already gotten a jump start on her duties so that we can have another successful and informative luncheon schedule. Laurie Montag, CP, will be taking over the District 2 duties. I am confident that she will continue to build the membership in District 2 and provide excellent educational and networking opportunities for our Lincoln area members.

This year's Website Administrator is Kylie Clayton, ACP. She has been serving on the website committee for a number of years and will be a great addition to the Board of Directors with her enthusiasm and technological suggestions. Our Publications Editor, Teresa Barnes, is no stranger to the Board of Directors either. Teresa was our past Treasurer and her eye for detail will be a tremendous help in the Editor position.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



P.O. BOX 24943

Omaha, NE 68124

www.nebraskaparalegal.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CON'T):

As I mentioned, I am looking forward to a great year with this great team. The Board of Directors meets regularly and the meeting times will be posted on our website www.nebraskaparalegal.org. All of our members are encouraged to attend the Board meetings. We welcome input from everyone at any time. Our contact information is also posted on the website, so if you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact any of us. Remember – this is YOUR professional organization!

Alison Barthel-Jacobson, President

DISTRICT II DIRECTOR—LAURIE MONTAG, CP

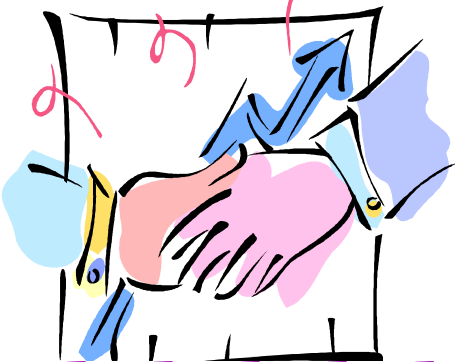
Greetings to all District 2 paralegals! I have the honor (and challenge) of following in the footsteps of Carla Larson as your new District 2 Director. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Carla for her excellent organizational and leadership efforts over the last two years.

I am looking forward to working with all District 2 paralegals to maintain and grow this branch of NePA. One of my goals is to continue to provide stimulating and worthwhile quarterly luncheon programs, which also serve as opportunities to network with both new and familiar faces in the District 2 paralegal community. I hope that, as you come across paralegals in other firms or entities, you will invite them to join us at one of our luncheons. Our next luncheon is October 28, 2010, and in keeping with NALA's emphasis on community service, we will hear from Shirley Foster, the volunteer coordinator of a local community service organization, Clinic with a Heart. Clinic with a Heart provides access to medical care to the uninsured and underinsured population in our city through seven monthly clinics staffed with volunteers. I am sure you will find both Shirley and the story of Clinic with a Heart to be informative and inspirational!



We held the inaugural 4F (Food, Fun, Friends and Frivolity) party last January, with the aim of making this an annual event for District 2. Details for the second annual 4F bash will be forthcoming via email in the near future. We hope you can join us for this fun event! Please do not hesitate to contact me at lmontag@nebraskaparalegal.org with your suggestions for future luncheon topics, or any other NePA matter.

Laurie Montag—District II Director



ALICIA M. FARNAN, CP
AMBER K. ROBERTS, CP
NEW CERTIFIED
PARALEGALS!

2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS***President***

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Kim Hansen, Omaha World Herald

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NALA Liaison

Kim Brown, CP, Spencer Fane

District 1 Director

Ruth Bahr, Baird Holm

District 2 Director

Laurie Montag, CP, Cline Williams Wright
Johnson & Oldfather, LLP

Web Administrator

Kylie Clayton, ACP, Berkshire Hathaway

Publications Editor

Teresa Barnes, CP, Gross & Welch

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

January 11, 2011

March 8, 2011

June 14, 2011

August 9, 2011

2010-2011 COMMITTEES

There is still time to volunteer for a committee. We have a great variety of committees that need help in a variety of ways. This is YOUR organization and you can help make it better. Contact an officer or committee chairperson to volunteer

CLE/ Seminar

Audit

Library

Membership

Official Publications

Nominations & Elections

Student Services & Mentoring

Student Scholarship

CLA Scholarship

Web Site

Public Relations/NSBA Liaison

Law Day Poster Contest

CP Review Course Ad Hoc Committee

Ads/ Donations Ad Hoc Committee

HELP NEEDED!!!!

We are still looking for more attorneys/judges to judge the Nebraska Regional Mock Trial competition in Omaha end of October, beginning of November. If you know an attorney who would be interested in serving, please contact Christina Koch at clkoch@inserra.com!!!
Thanks!!!

FALL SEMINAR REPORT BY CHRISTINA L. KOCH, ACP

There are so many things to enjoy about fall in Nebraska. The leaves are changing, the cool weather, and of course, the kickoff of Nebraska Football! The Nebraska Paralegal Association has its own kickoff and that is the Annual Paralegal Recognition Breakfast, Fall Seminar and Annual Meeting. This year's festivities were no exception. The Annual Paralegal Breakfast was a big success with over 100 attendees registered and our keynote speaker, Nebraska District Court Judge Leigh Ann Retelsdorf, who spoke about her career path and the challenges she faced along the way.

President Loretta Phillips delivered her President's address and acknowledged the service of the Board of Directors as well as the many volunteer Committee Members over the past year. We also celebrated the 2nd Annual CLA/ACP Pinning Ceremony with seven new CPs and 10 new ACPs.

The awards ceremony concluded with a special award, the Nebraska NALA Affiliate Award, which was given to Linda Hess, ACP by President Loretta Phillips. This award recognizes Linda's exemplary leadership and commitment to the Nebraska Paralegal Association. Linda has been active in NePA and NALA for many years. She has served NePA as president-elect, president, treasurer, director for District I, NALA liaison, publications editor, and as a member of the seminar committee. She is always willing to assist other members of the association. In 2000, she attended her first NALA annual convention and has attended six more since then. In 2006, Linda was appointed to the NALA Certifying Board for a three-year term. She served as chair of the Certifying Board for the last two years of her term and as an ex-officio member of the Certifying Board this past year. Linda was a member of the NALA Board of Directors from 2007 to 2009. She is a dedicated paralegal who has been instrumental in the success of the Nebraska Paralegal Association. Her selection as recipient of the 2010 NALA Affiliated Association Award for Nebraska was by unanimous vote of her fellow NePA members.



Linda Hess and Loretta Phillips

After the Recognition Breakfast, paralegals gathered for the mid-year meeting, for reports from the Board of Directors, as well as the election and induction of the new Board of Directors, as listed below:

Alison Barthel Jacobson, CP, President
 Loretta Phillips, Past President
 Christina L. Koch, ACP, President Elect
 Kim Hansen, Vice President
 Carla Larson, ACP, Secretary
 Jaci O'Brien, ACP, MBA, Treasurer
 Kimberly A.S. Brown, ACP, NALA Liaison
 Laurie Vik, CP, Parliamentarian
 Ruth Bahr, District 1 Director
 Laurie Montag, CP, District 2 Director
 Kylie Clayton, ACP, Website Administrator
 Teresa Barnes, CP, Publications Editor



2010 -2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After induction of the new Board of Directors, the Fall Seminar began. This year's Fall Seminar was attended by 64 members on September 16, 2010 and 52 members on September 17, 2010. There was a wide variety of speakers and topics this year on topics including litigation, probate, real estate, Medicare, FMLA, CLE strategies, and of course, ethics.

The first speaker was Jill Robb Ackerman, Esq. of Baird Holm, who spoke about the Rule 26 Changes and the Protection of Attorney-Client Privilege and Work Product While Working with Expert Witnesses – A Four Course Dinner. Ms. Ackerman followed the lecture portion of her presentation with an interactive activity designed to further enhance attendee's understanding of the material. Ms. Ackerman was followed by a networking lunch. The afternoon began with Jeffrey L. Stoehr, Esq., who spoke about Avoiding the Potholes in Probate Practice. Mr. Stoehr's

(Continued on Page 5)

FALL SEMINAR REPORT BY CHRISTINA L. KOCH, ACP (CON'T)

presentation highlighted the proactive steps that paralegals can take to avoid or eliminate probate issues, including Statutes of Limitations, problems with creditors, and insolvency issues.

Our final speaker of the day was Kyle Wallor, Esq. of Lamson, Dugan & Murray, who spoke about The ABC's of Ethics for Paralegals. Mr. Wallor reminded paralegals of our Canons of Ethics and how the work paralegals do is subject to the same ethical guidelines as that of the attorneys we work for. The first day of the seminar concluded with door prizes.

On Friday, September 17, 2010, members gathered for the second day of the seminar, beginning with Bill Miller and Sherry Dennis from the State Court Administrator's Office. Mr. Miller and Ms. Dennis updated seminar attendees on the Justice Case Management System and E-filing in the Nebraska Trial Courts. It is expected that in 2011, all trial courts in the State of Nebraska will have E-filing available. Our next speaker was Thomas R. Ostdiek, Esq. of Valentine, O'Toole, McQuillan & Gordon, who spoke about Liens on Real Property. Mr. Ostdiek spoke about the types of liens and how to perfect them. He also informed paralegals how to determine priority of different types of liens.

After lunch, seminar attendees separated into breakout sessions. This year's breakout session choices were Medicare's MMSEA Section 111 Reporting Requirements: An Overview by Meredith Kuehler, Esq. of Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies or FMLA/ADA Update by Jennifer R. Peterson, Esq. of Gross & Welch.

Our final speaker of the day was Scott Larson, who stood in for Carla Larson, ACP, of Cline Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather, LLP. Carla, unfortunately, was unable to deliver her presentation personally due to laryngitis. Scott delivered Carla's presentation on CLE Strategies to Maximize Value –for-Cost, and provided some wonderful tips on how to save money for the 2011 NALA Convention. He also spoke about the importance of planning for the future. The Fall Seminar concluded with door prizes and closing remarks by Seminar Chair and NePA President, Alison Barthel Jacobson.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Seminar at Mahoney State Park on April 22, 2011!!!

Please be sure to visit our website to view photos of the Seminar!

<http://www.nebraskaparalegal.org/>

Did you know the Nebraska

Paralegal Association is now on Facebook?

Please visit us!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nebraska-Paralegal-Association-NePA/101739993223184>

NALA CONNECTION—KIM BROWN, ACP

This is an exciting year for NePA as we prepare for the 36th Annual NALA Convention in Dallas, Texas! **Save the date:** July 27-30, 2011. I look forward to serving you this year as your NALA Liaison!

As NALA Liaison, not only am I responsible for providing you with general information regarding NALA, representing NePA at NALA's Annual Meeting, answering any inquiries of the paralegal training programs locally and nationwide, but I am also responsible for keeping you apprised of any and all CLA/CP examination changes and assisting you with anything you may need for the examination. In this *In Brief* edition, I will provide you with an overview of the new CLA/CP Review Manual, the new computer-based testing, the Advanced Paralegal Certification Board, and a summary of upcoming NALA events.

New CLA/CP Review Manual

NALA just introduced its new CLA/CP Review Manual, a Practical Guide to CP Exam Preparation, 3rd Edition. This comprehensive manual includes: tips for efficient study, positive test performance suggestions, extensive outlines with law summaries, illustrative examples, sample questions and charts for review, updated realistic Self-Tests at the end of each chapter, and a NEW Ethics section discussing the fundamentals of e-mail communication and computer use. It will be available for ordering on the NALA web site soon! Watch www.nala.org for more information.

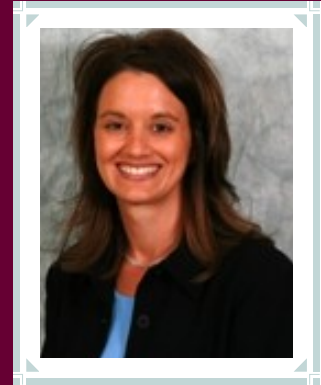
Computer-Based CLA/CP Testing

NALA kicked off its new computer based testing procedures in September 2010. The testing is completed at an ACT testing facility during the entire testing month. No longer will examinees need to test with paper and pencil! Please visit www.nala.org/examinee.aspx to download the informational booklet relating to the new testing procedures. A Certified Paralegal must complete fifty hours of continuing legal education every five years, including five Ethics hours, to maintain the Certified Paralegal/Advanced Certified Paralegal credential.

NALA's Advanced Paralegal Certification Board

NALA's President, Karen Greer McGee, ACP, appointed NePA's Past President, Janie Boswell, ACP, as a member of NALA's Advanced Paralegal Certification Board. The APC Board administers a program of continuing education courses for paralegals on various specialty areas of law and provides a certification process to recognize those who have achieved the CLA/CP certification and successfully complete advanced courses. The board is composed of NALA members with the ACP credential, paralegal educators, paralegal managers and attorneys. Ms. Boswell, and her fellow paralegal board members, will serve a three-year term. Attorney/educator/manager members will serve a two-year term. The Chair of the Advanced Paralegal Certification Board is a voting member of the NALA Board of Directors.

The APC Board is responsible for the content, standards and administration of the APC programs, including development and updating course content. The board works with outside consultants on certification programs and technical writers to ensure the integrity of the courses and certification process. As of May 31, 2010, Nebraska has 197 Certified Paralegals, with 40 Advanced Certified Paralegals. We



are proud to have a NePA member on the Advanced Paralegal Certification Board!

Upcoming NALA Deadlines/Events

Please see www.nebraskaparalegal.org/Calendar.aspx for upcoming Campus Live events

December 1, 2010: CLA/CP January Examination Application Registration deadline

December 1, 2010: Facts & Findings Article Deadline

November 11-13, 2010: NALA CLA/CP Short Course, Charlotte, North Carolina

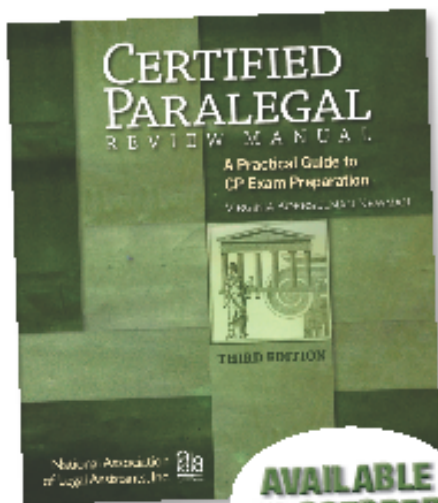
Save the Date: July 27-30, 2011: NALA's 36th Annual Convention – Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center, Dallas, Texas

I look forward to your comments and questions as we move forward to another great year with NePA and NALA. Please contact me at (402) 965-8600 or kbrown@spencerfane.com should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Kimberly A.S. Brown, ACP

NALA Liaison

Newly revised and thoroughly updated, this is a must-have resource for anyone preparing to take the NALA CLA/CP Exam!



**AVAILABLE
IN OCTOBER**

CLA/CP REVIEW MANUAL:

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO CLA/CP EXAM PREPARATION, 3RD EDITION

Like the exam itself, this comprehensive manual is known in the field for high standards of paralegal professionalism and excellence. The introduction of the third edition describes the exam including policies and eligibility; the 16 chapters focus on specific content areas of the test. **Key features include:**

- Tips for efficient study, including group study suggestions.
- Positive test performance suggestions, including tips for controlling stress and answering specific types of questions.
- Extensive outlines with law summaries, illustrative examples, sample questions, and charts for review.
- UPDATED realistic Self-Tests at the end of each chapter.
- NEW Section on Ethics discussing the fundamentals of email communication and computer use.



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Watch the NALA Website for ordering details!

NALA ANNOUNCES 2011 CONVENTION LOCATION CHANGE

On October 8, 2010, Marge Dover, Executive Director of the National Association of Legal Assistants ("NALA"), notified the NePA Board of Directors of NePA of NALA's decision to postpone holding the NALA convention in Omaha until 2012. The reason for the change is the Hilton Hotel's \$35 million expansion project, announced in June 2010, slated to start late this year and be completed early in 2012. NALA and the Hilton Hotel had signed the contract for the 2011 convention in February 2010; the hotel notified NALA of the project this summer. A new contract to hold the NALA convention in Omaha in July 2012, with terms substantially identical to those of the 2011 convention contract, has been signed by the parties.

Dover attended the meeting of the NePA Board of Directors on October 12, 2010, by conference call. She said more than once in the call how much NALA and its members are looking forward to a convention in Omaha. She visited Omaha and the Hilton Hotel late last year prior to the selection of Omaha as the convention site. Dover said people had told her how pretty Omaha is, and now she agrees with them, based on first-hand experience. She emphasized the advantage of having the 2012 convention in a newly-renovated, upgraded, expanded hotel. NePA Board members and Dover agreed that a convention in the midst of a construction project would not show Omaha at its best. NALA made the decision to change the 2011 convention location knowing that both NePA and NALA want Omaha to shine at the NALA convention; 2012 will be the time to do that.

NePA Board members are disappointed at having to wait until 2012 for NALA convention attendees to arrive in Omaha, but they like having an extra year to plan for the event.

With changing the NALA convention in Omaha to 2012, NALA chose Dallas (actually, Plano), Texas, as the site for the convention to be held July 27-30, 2011. Visit www.nala.org for more details.



We've Changed Tracks

The destination for NALA's 36th Annual Convention
& Summer Institutes, July 27-30, 2011 will be

Dallas

Instead of Omaha

The Omaha Hilton recently announced a construction project conflicting with our July 2011 convention dates. The hotel graciously worked with us to change the location this year and to make Omaha our destination in 2012.

This means two great locations for attendees.

The new site for the 2011 convention will be the

Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center

This is NALA's first "All Institute" convention and will feature seven institutes:

- Corporate
- Essential Skills
- Estate Planning/ Administration
- Social Security
- Personal Injury
- Real Estate
- Litigation/Technology

The special NALA rate of \$119/day is available three days before and three days after the meeting dates.

Please make this change in your NALA convention itinerary for 2011 and we'll head on up the road for Omaha in 2012.

Check the NALA website for details – www.nala.org

BENEFITS TIP THE SCALE by Linda R. Hess, ACP

You know how sometimes you volunteer for something and then wonder how often moments of insanity like that one will occur and then fortuitously something happens that is almost like divine inspiration. If things like that don't happen to you, lucky you.

Anyway...I told Teresa I would contribute articles to the *In Brief*. When she set the deadline, I had no idea what I would write about. Then I saw a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."

I was honored you selected me to receive the 2010 Affiliates Award for Nebraska. Do I have to give the award back if I confess I got more from serving NeALA, now NePA, and NALA than either of those organizations got from me. Here is my version of the Late Show Top Ten for how I have benefited:

10. Recognition and a fancy plaque at a breakfast before 102 members of the legal community. In exchange, I had to make a short speech. Ah, the price of fame.
9. Exposure to an organization operating under Roberts Rules of Order. If you spoke out of turn, you could get whacked over the head with the rule book.
8. Improvement of verbal skills by practice before fellow paralegals, a friendly audience. You may not notice it, but I have improved.
7. Tips of the trade for my practice area shared. We can never get too many, and we are lucky others will share them with us *for free*.
6. Pride that fellow paralegals trusted me enough to put me in positions to represent and serve them. Thank you.
5. Greater appreciation for our part in the delivery of services to our clients. We **really** are a great asset to our employers, who could not function without us.
4. A network to call upon for advice and support. "This has to have happened to someone somewhere before!"
3. Development of negotiation skills working with boards and committees. You want to see something interesting: watch attorneys at the Certifying Board meeting argue over one sentence in the model answer for an essay question.
2. Improvement of my writing skills by grading essays for the NALA Certifying Board and editing the *In Brief*. Not always fun, but certainly valuable.

AND THE #1 BENEFIT:

The friendship of many of you. Getting to know the paralegals took more than exchanging a few pleasantries at a district luncheon, but I would not give back a minute of the time I spent as an officer or active participant in our state and national associations. Friendship: one of the most beautiful compensations of life.

-- Linda R. Hess, ACP



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In this paralegal role you will provide legal support to attorneys on Iowa and Nebraska Workers' Compensation and Civil Litigation matters, with moderate supervision. Support internal and external business process efforts, assisting attorneys and clients. Develop a working knowledge of company resources sufficient to facilitate document management, respond to requests and inquiries, and interact with clients and policyholders. Conduct basic legal and factual research. Assist in drafting documents, analyzing facts and recognizing legal and business issues.

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Experience: This position requires an undergraduate degree, Iowa and Nebraska Workers' Compensation litigation experience, 3 years experience in insurance and 3 years working in law.

Salary Low: \$18.00

Salary High: \$30.00

Wage Type: Hourly

Education Level: Bachelor

Years Experience: 3-5 Years

Travel: None

Relocate: No

Sponsorship: No

To apply contact:

Ashley Wendlandt

Adecco Employment Services

Staffing Consultant

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Omaha, NE 68137

(402) 895-2776

ashley.wendlandt@addecona.com

MORE HELP WANTED.....

OMAHA - TITLE INSURANCE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Location: Omaha, NE

FLSA Status: Exempt

Salary: \$30-\$35K+ depending on experience

Position Purpose: Support several attorneys with basic administrative duties. Ideal candidate will have experience in real estate, mortgage industry, title insurance/claims/deeds and/or litigation.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Receive, examine and abstract records
- Research and investigate facts for attorneys
- Advise customers of status, defects and requirements for issuing title insurance
- Prepare written correspondence
- Monitor flow of documents
- Meet company policies, procedures and processing requirement
- Communicates with other internal departments
- Other duties as deemed necessary for reaching goals

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities Required:

- Knowledge of real estate law, examining and underwriting policies/procedures and/or title insurance
- Ability to compile and interpret information
- Knowledge of sound business practices
- Skill in problem solving and analytical thinking
- Skill to communicate in written and oral manner
- Ability to be detail oriented, organized, multi task, and work independently
- Ability to work effectively as a team member
- Ability comply with measurable standards
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook
- Professional demeanor and meticulous attention to detail
- Ability work fast paced environment

Education and Experience Required:

- One plus years experience in mortgage loans processing, closing or title insurance
- Paralegal experience plus

Work Schedule: Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Benefits:

Vacation – 2 weeks – 5 sick days – paid holidays

Insurance – 3 month waiting period, employer pays significant portion

Short – Long term disability

Stock purchase options

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THE DAILY RECORD

Salutes

The Nebraska Paralegal Association

**For dependable, fast legal notices,
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Over the years, we've been proud to lend our enthusiastic support to the Nebraska State Bar, the Omaha Bar, the Omaha Barristers, the Nebraska Women's Bar Association, the Association of Legal Assistants, the Omaha Legal Professionals Association, the Nebraska Paralegal Association and many other affiliated legal organizations.

We applaud your efforts to contribute to the excellence of the legal profession.

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