

Faulk, Camilla

From: Karen Feulner [kef@pacifier.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 12:36 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Legal Technician

I strongly oppose adoption of the rule regarding legal techs. My objection is based on my many years of experiences with paralegals and continuing concerns they simply do not have sufficient educational and/or experiential background to justify responsibilities beyond their current stead. In some cases I have even been concerned that paralegals already have too much responsibility as well as unsupervised leeway via their present law office employment. Those concerns, however, have always been put in check when the responsible attorney has been handed the file and has taken the lead back from the paralegal. That check will not happen if these paralegals are set out to do business on their own!!!

The paralegal's narrow, narrow understanding of the law (education about the law) will serve to place clients in the very unfortunate position of receiving inadequate and often inaccurate legal advice. In my own family law practice of 20 years I have witnessed paralegals giving such advise in the law office setting. Putting them out on their own, in the absence of an attorney safety net, would most certainly result in many dire mistakes being made which in the long run would not benefit the individual client or the broader public. Those of us who have paid our dues by attending law school know that in advising clients we rely heavily upon that experience in assessing our ability to advise and make referrals concerning various areas of the law. The law school experience is an invaluable tool for the practitioner to identify issues and proceed accordingly. Paralegals that I have met and been involved with in various, many cases throughout the past 20 years simply do not have these tools and are thereby handicapped and not equipped to practice on their own.

For these reasons, as a matter of protecting the public interest and concerns, the egal technician rule must be rejected.

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