

SAC Paralegal Advisory Committee Meeting Spring 2014 – May 29th, 2014 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Ed Keck
Bill Tanner
Francine Leon-Guerrero
Julie Hallstead
Kim Smith
Rick Manzano
Kristen Robinson

1. ABA reapproval process. We submitted all of the paperwork and the report. Kristen stated that after speaking with other programs at the national conference; most programs have an 18 months lag time between the report and the site visits. The ABA will be moving to online forms and the report will be submitted electronically. We will keep gathering data. Until we hear from the ABA we are in a holding pattern.
2. This summer we are working on the website. We want to build a faculty profile section with photos.
3. Law School Pathway program: We will be renaming the department Legal Studies to reflect both the paralegal program and the pre-law program. Street Law course. Southwestern - Lauren Cohen. Street law course: consumer law. Pro bono, low bono, gap clients. Kim said this is a great opportunity to flip the classroom.
4. New Courses: Members of the committee stated that the following courses should be considered: landlord tenant; street law, corporations class, title and Survey course, mortgage class, education law, health law, admin law course, workers comp, immigration, intellectual property, employment law. Rick Manzano stated that we have a landlord/tenant law course, workers compensation course, immigration law course and a labor law class. Kristen also explained that the timeline to get a new course approved by the state is close to 18 months now, but the faculty would look at developing new courses.
5. A130/Library Classroom. Rick Manzano stated that the OC law library has changed the law library hours, so we can't use it anymore for the evening research class. Kristen stated that the college did secure a large donation of the California Digest that will be used for the research course to establish a separate "paralegal classroom library." Rick discussed the possibility of adding an online certification process with either Westlaw or Lexis to supplement the research capabilities. Julie Halstead offered to ask the OCPA board if they would help fund additional locked cabinets to hold books in A130.
6. Paralegal Fund: Kristen noted that the faculty has thought about opening a fund with the Santa

Ana Foundation to pay for student events, scholarships or even book fees. The committee thinks that it is a good idea to have a fund. We will explore creating a fund and reaching out to the legal community to ask for donations.

7. Deadlines: Julie Halstead wants to make sure students can follow instructions. Julie said there are no late deadlines. Students have to learn how to turn in deadlines.
8. Awards: Committee recognizes Bill Tanner for receiving the Katherine Darmer award. Kai Williamson for being awarded the OCPA lifetime achievement award.
9. Legal Community Update: Bill Tanner updated the group about his Incubator project with the state bar of California partnering with the access to justice commission. Legal aid has worked on 435 case files and made 180 court appearances. This is currently being offered to new lawyers and law schools, but Bill sees that this could be a good partnership for the paralegal programs. Law schools will hire legal aide to be the professors for these incubators programs.
10. Discussion on LLLT. OCPA is not in favor of the LLLT. Julie Halstead said that OCPA is concerned about the quality of these programs. OCPA is pushing members to do more Pro bono. Bill Tanner said Joe Dunn at the state bar said this LLLT is partially being done to regulate the people that are already providing services. Bill Tanner said there was a bill that Gov. Brown vetoed the bill to enforce the unauthorized practice of law. Julie Halstead noted that most states with paralegal oversight, have a paralegal section of the state bar. Kristen Robinson noted that the program does want to reach out to the state bar and get more involved with policy regarding paralegals.
11. The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting set for Fall of 2014.

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