Why you should choose the North Hennepin Community College Paralegal Program!

ABA Approved!
North Hennepin Community College is one of only six schools approved by the American Bar Association (ABA) in Minnesota. The ABA is the oldest and largest legal organization in the country, and North Hennepin has been approved since 1979!

Award Winning!
Minnesota Lawyer Magazine ranked the paralegal program Number One in the state! Take that Hamline!

Student Satisfaction!
A survey found that 94% of students would recommend the program to others.

The Professors!
Most of your paralegal classes will be taught by Mary Gillen Fenske J.D., Sean Woodbury J.D., and Carrie Vaia J.D. As a group, they have been together at North Hennepin Community College for over a decade and have more than 40 years combined teaching experience.

Speaking of Carrie Vaia...

Interview with Professor Carrie Vaia

*Introduction to Law and Paralegal Studies* with Carrie will be the first course you will take for North Hennepin’s paralegal program and most certainly not the last with her!

Carrie’s classes are informative without getting bogged down, challenging but rewarding, they are lively and encourage participation, and Carrie mixes in just the right amount of fun group work, videos, and guest speakers.

Even if you don’t want to be a paralegal, it is recommended to take her Intro course as an elective, and if you DO want to be a paralegal...you don’t have a choice!

In-between teaching at two separate universities and running her own private practice, Professor Vaia took the time to answer a few questions for this issue:

Continued on Page Six
PARALEGAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Join the NHCC Paralegal Student Association for a chance to participate in fun and engaging events to add notable experience to your resume!

Our next meeting will be held during the Fall 2019 semester. Look out for posters announcing the dates of the first meeting or contact Emmy Sutherland at jx3960ts@go.minnstate.edu

If you are interested in being involved as an officer of the club, several positions are available as listed with a description of the duties of each officer:

ROLES AND DEFINITIONS

President

✦ The President facilitates club meetings, develops all meeting agendas, leads the club in all on-campus and off-campus club projects and events, maintains communication with Student Life administration, oversees and directs PLSA officers and members in all projects and events, and represents PLSA at all Student Senate Meetings.

Vice President

✦ The Vice President assists the president in the discharge of his/her duties and in the president’s absence assumes his/her duties and officiates in his/her stead.

Event Coordinator

✦ The Event Coordinator makes arrangements for all club activities including events, parties, seminars, fundraisers, or social mixers to attract new club members. Planning activities include developing the program, including when and where to hold it and managing costs. Oversees the club’s social activities and happenings.

Treasurer

✦ The Treasurer has charge of the funds of the club, keeps a record of all receipts and disbursements, and renders a written report when requested by the president or board of directors.

Secretary

✦ The Secretary keeps the minutes of the meeting of the club and supervises all reports.

Editor

✦ The Editor writes, plans, and edits content for the newsletter Gears of Law; solicits content for the newsletter; edits all solicited content.

Media Officer

✦ The Media Officer photographs any club events or board meeting; creates and supplies visual aids for any club events or board meetings; creates advertising media if requested or needed.
“It is an honor to have been nominated for this award, and I couldn’t have done it without the hard work and dedication of my fellow PLSA members. It has been a wonderful opportunity to assist in the growth of this club”

“THWACK!”
On May 7, 2019, thinking he was going bowling, Mr. Marcus Cole was instead tricked into speaking to our humble Paralegal Student Association about his 22 years (!) of experience as a paralegal.

Thank you Marcus!

Marcus has seemingly done it all! After attending the Minnesota Paralegal Institute, he got his first paralegal job at a small law firm where he did a little bit of work in family law, got some experience with wills, and was involved in criminal law.

Currently Marcus is employed as a corporate paralegal for Optum Health where he works as a senior contract administrator.

His favorite place to work is a firm with a corporate environment where he doesn’t have to do billing and his least favorite type of law is family, because of how emotional it can be.

Part of his current job involves hiring paralegals and he offered some advice:

- Make sure your resume is free of errors.
- Be on time, dress for the position, and have good body language. No sandals and no slouching!
- Is your current LinkedIn profile picture a photo of that “20 pound” wall-eye you caught? Swap it out for something more professional.

“Be on time, dress for the position, and have good body language. No sandals and no slouching!”

Optum Health headquarters in Eden Prairie, MN
On May 17th, at the beautiful Maple Grove Arboretum Picnic Pavilion, pizza, pop, chicken wings, and beer salad was served in honor of the 2019 graduates of the North Hennepin Community College paralegal program. Professors Fenske and Woodbury were in attendance, and Professor Woodbury gave a moving speech to all of the students. There was also a bean bag toss!

Congratulations everybody!

“Reputation is what you are in the light - character in the dark. As graduates on 2019, I challenge you to keep building your reputation by strengthening and focusing on your character.”

- 2019 graduate Diana Treptau
Interview with Professor Carrie Vaia

On her childhood:

- Carrie lived on a small farm (that felt like a giant farm) in northern Minnesota as a child...until her parents packed up everything and drove across the country to Los Angeles! They would return to Minnesota when she was older.

On her decision to go to law school:

- Carrie’s parents were blue-collar workers, but Carrie knew she didn’t want that for herself. She received her bachelors degree in psychology. Carrie then found herself at a crossroads: did she want to go to medical school, law school, or grad school for marriage counseling? She decided on law school. She liked the variety of options available to her with a law degree.

On how she ended up at North Hennepin:

- Carrie’s teaching career began in 2003, when a friend helped get her a job teaching at North Western University in Roseville. Three years later, another friend offered her a job at North Hennepin. It’s all about the people you know!

On her favorite classes to teach:

- She loves them all! (Editor’s note: Alternative Dispute Resolution is my personal favorite)

On her experience with paralegals:

- Carrie has a private practice in which she employs two paralegals. One began as an acquaintance of hers and one was a student from North Hennepin! They conduct a lot of legal research for her and assist with appeals.

On if she will provide free legal advice to students:

- No!

Hey you! Yes, you person reading this right now! Do you have interest in contributing to a future issue of Gears of Law? The pay is zero dollars and zero cents, but it would look snazzy on a resume.

Contact Mike Uhr at ko4747tv@go.minnstate.edu if you are intrigued.
Legal Current Events

Local

♦ Bde Maka Ska is Lake Calhoun, Court of Appeals rules Monday

♦ Minnesota House passes hands-free cellphone bill
https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/03/19/minnesota-house-passes-hands-free-cell-phone-bill

♦ Minnesota gun control proposals hit obstacle in conference committee

National

♦ 'The Handmaid's Tale' trends after Alabama abortion vote

♦ Elizabeth Warren’s plan to cancel student debt is popular with voters, survey finds

♦ FDA can’t regulate death penalty drugs, Justice Department says

International

♦ Group ranks best and worst countries in Europe for LGBTI rights
https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/14/europe/anti-lgbt-ranking-europe-scli-intl/index.html

♦ Hong Kong: Thousands protest against China extradition law

♦ Australia faces 'world-first' climate change human rights case

THE MOON

♦ Lawyer: People Could Try to Sell the Apollo Moon Footprints
https://futurism.com/lawyer-sell-apollo-moon-footprints
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLEG 1411-91 Litigation I</td>
<td>PLEG 1430-91 Alternative Dispute Resolution</td>
<td>PLEG 1210-92 Computer Applications</td>
<td>PLEG 2710-91 Wills, Trusts and Estate Administration</td>
<td>PLEG 2430-51 Torts &amp; Personal Injury Law</td>
<td>3 credits Fenske (Completely Online Asynchronous)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid Selth</td>
<td>Vaia</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>Vaia</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLEG 2211-91 Legal Research and Writing I</td>
<td>PLEG 1111-91 Intro to Law and Paralegal Studies</td>
<td>PLEG 2310-91 Criminal Law and Procedure</td>
<td>PLEG 2930-70 Legal Studies Seminar and Internship</td>
<td>PLEG 2430-51 Torts &amp; Personal Injury Law</td>
<td>3 credits Fenske (Completely Online Asynchronous)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenske</td>
<td>Vaia</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>Fenske</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLEG 2212-91 Legal Research and Writing II</td>
<td>PLEG 1412-91 Litigation II</td>
<td>PLEG 1412-91 Litigation II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 9:20 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbury</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>