

North Hennepin  
Community College

Volume 2020, Issue 2

# Gears of Law

## NHCC Paralegal Student Association

### A Letter to our Graduating Class

By: Amanda Buys

This is not the graduation that you expected.. For the end of your degree as you start along a new phase in your life, equipped with all of the amazing relationships and knowledge you have gained in your time here at North Hennepin Community College. As you move on to new careers in this time of dire uncertainty remember that there will be a tomorrow and a day after that. Even in times of despair there is a strange beauty that follows. Take the time and reflect on yourself; take the time to seek out opportunities to improve yourself and take advantage of the recovery that will follow this downward motion we are following currently. The roller coaster will rise again and you will look back on the pictures in the dark tunnel and remember the surprise that comes with change.

We are all thinking of you; and watching you with ever-growing excitement as we approach the finish line that you have now crossed.

### PLEG 1990 Topic: Immigration Law

Fall 2020 Semester

Thursdays, On-Line: From 4:15pm—5:45 pm \*Webcam Required

Professor: Katharine "Kate" Lovo, J.D. of Davis & Goldfarb

The Special Topics Immigration Law course aims to: (1) Introduce students to U.S. immigration law as an important and dynamic body of administrative policies and regulations with broad social, economic, and political impact; (2) Present an overview of substantive immigration law and its processes and procedures for those seeking to enter and remain in the United States as nonimmigrants and immigrants, including employment and family-based processes, humanitarian relief such as asylum, defenses to deportation, and U.S. citizenship; and (3) Address the role, responsibilities, and ethics of the paralegal within the field, with a specific focus on the practical skills most needed to be successful, including client interviewing, case management and communication, factual and legal research, and case preparation/production (including drafting cover and support letters, forms, and collecting supporting evidence).

Meet Kate Lovo on page 5

#### Inside this issue

Mental Health...Legal Field.....	2
Now What? .....	2
Working During a Pandemic.....	3
Peer Tutor Positions .....	4
Transfer Spotlight: Hamline.....	4
Meet Kate Lovo .....	5
We Want YOUR Ideas.....	5

#### Special points of interest

- Apply to be a Peer Tutor!
- Join the ABA for free!
- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
- Robert's Rules of Order



## Mental Health in the Legal Field

With so many people struggling, mental health has become even more of a concern than it previously was. There are many CLEs and seminars on staying on top of your mental wellness with the new struggles we are all trying to cope with. The biggest take aways from attending many of these CLEs are firstly to remember that you don't know how badly anyone else is struggling, assume that someone else is struggling just as much as (or even more than) you are, and secondly—if you are struggling make sure that you reach out to someone. It's hard to get past the stigma, but when we realize that everyone else is in this same boat that we are we can take a few extra moments to remember that we are all human and we are all doing the best that we can in the circumstances we were handed.

*“[W]e are all human and we are all doing the best that we can...”*

### Join the ABA!

The American Bar Association (ABA) offers a free membership to Paralegal Students! Joining the ABA will give you access to hundreds of hours of Continued Legal Education (CLE) courses, and access to ABA field specialty Sections, Forums, Commissions and Divisions.

When you register you will customize your membership by selecting “Others interested in the ABA” and then select Student, entering “North Hennepin Community College” and then your anticipated grad date and “Paralegal” for the degree.

If you have any questions of difficulty with joining please contact

ABA Customer Care  
1-800-285-2221  
[service@americanbar.org](mailto:service@americanbar.org)

## You have your Degree/Certificate! Now what?

For those of you who came to NHCC seeking a Degree or Certificate and are finally finishing up your program: Congratulations! I'm sure you are filled with some mixed emotions; glad that it's finished, sad that it's over, and thankful for the amazing people you met and networking opportunities you had. Now you get to decide what you are going to do with your new knowledge!

Don't forget that there is more that you can do than just 'be a Paralegal' working in a law firm! You can choose to continue pursuing education and maybe even pursue your J.D. and become an attorney, or work in a huge variety of different roles. Remember that ALL of the skills you learn to become a paralegal are highly transferrable and can be applied to almost every field. From learning how to write professionally to take on a role as an administrative assistant, to working in politics, social services, tax and finances, a small business owner.

If you get into the legal field and find out that being a Paralegal just isn't a great fit—don't be alarmed! Your education will help you with any role you pursue!

## Working during a Pandemic

The world is not the same as it was last year, when many of us applied for this program. Companies that have been steady and strong are closing down, areas of law are being completely rewritten and changed every day. Work isn't even what it used to be any more. As an essential service, most law firms have been able to continue operating in some capacity during the pandemic. There are some firms that have continued to see clients and work completely in-person, others have moved to a completely remote system, and there are even firms that are working in a hybrid system where those who can work from home are encouraged (or required) to do so.

When searching for a new job don't hesitate to ask what your new employer is doing in terms of COVID preparedness and if there is a plan in place for you to work remotely if necessary. There is no easy way to handle this pandemic, and there is no indication that we will return to the old ways of 'normal' so don't be afraid to talk about your concerns with your employers.



### Resource: Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

Minnesota's program Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers is a free peer and professional resource for lawyers, judges, law students, and their families on stress-causing issues. From mental health to addiction and abuse issues; LCL has many resources to help with some of the stresses and difficulties.

It is also a wonderful resource to use, not only for yourself, but for colleagues also who might just need someone to reach out. The MN LCL program often does CLEs and other presentations warning about the risks to practitioners who end up making huge ethical mistakes due to their other struggles.

If you are working with or for someone who you think needs help there are ways to call in, confidentially, and someone will discretely reach out to them and offer assistance.

Find more information at their website: [www.mnlcl.org](http://www.mnlcl.org) or call them at 866-525-6466.

## Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order is a system of conducting meetings in order to keep an agenda on track and allow all of the voices to be heard regarding each of the agenda topics presented. Many different groups and organizations use Robert's Rules of Order, including the US Congress, NHCC Student Senate, Paralegal Student Association, Minnesota State Bar Section Council meetings, Boards for various state entities, and even some companies use Robert's Rules of Order for their meetings.

We recommend that students familiarize themselves with Robert's Rules of Order, not just if they plan on joining the Paralegal Student Association, but also because it is a meeting system that you will likely continue to see into your professional career.

You can find detailed information by reading through the Student Life document on Robert's Rules of Order should the Student Life Forms portal on the NHCC website!

## WANTED: Paralegal Peer Tutors!

The Paralegal department is looking for students who have completed PLEG classes to assist other students by become Peer Tutors. This is a paid, part-time opportunity that can be done completely remotely with a flexible schedule.

You should have strong customer service and communication skills, a strong desire to serve your peers, and be dependable, friendly, and self-motivated..

Please reach out to one of the Paralegal Faculty members if you are seeking a recommendation to become a Peer Tutor. When you apply please reach out to Rachel Fraser via e-mail at [Rachel.fraser@nhcc.edu](mailto:Rachel.fraser@nhcc.edu) or via phone at 763-424-0943 to set up a virtual interview.

<https://nhcc.edu/about-nhcc/employment-opportunities/student-worker-positions/student-worker-details.aspx?ID=98>

### Job Details:

- 10 to 20 hours per week
- Monday through Thursday between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM
- Tutor sessions are 30 to 60 minutes via zoom accounts established by the Tutoring Department
- \$11.00 / hour



## Transfer Spotlight: Hamline University

Did you know that up to 95% of your Paralegal A.S. degree transfers to Hamline University's Legal Studies B.A.? You can transfer up to 64 of your NHCC Paralegal A.S. credits towards the Legal Studies B.A. and minor in any other program (or you can opt to Major in another program and minor in Legal Studies and cover almost all of the minor requirements! This is a great option if you are considering attending Law School in the future.

Hamline's Legal Studies program has a Pre-Law option in both their major and minor options; if you major in Legal Studies in the Pre-Law program you will pick a non-Legal Studies minor; and if you minor in the Legal Studies you can select any of their major programs.

Visit Hamline University to learn more: <http://www.hamline.edu>



## Immigration Instructor Kate Lovo

Instructor Kate Lovo has practiced immigration law since 2010, focusing her work in matters of family-based immigration, including I-601 waivers of inadmissibility; employment-based non-immigrant visas such as the TN for Mexican and Canadian professionals, H-1B specialty occupation, L-1 Intracompany transfer, O-1 extraordinary ability, and R-1 religious worker visas and permanent residency; humanitarian relief such as asylum, U visas for victims of crime, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action Based on Childhood Arrival (DACA); applications for U.S. citizenship; and representing employers in Form I-9 inspections. She also has experience appearing before the Executive Office for Immigration Review ("immigration court") defending clients against deportation. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer Association and has served as its Minnesota-Dakotas chapter liaison to the local U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services' field office. She has also been an active volunteer attorney on pro bono immigration cases through the Volunteer Lawyers Network.

Raised in Houston, Texas, Kate has lived in Minnesota since graduating from Carleton College with a major in Spanish. She received her J.D. from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2010. Prior to law school, she worked as a paralegal with a Minneapolis immigration firm.



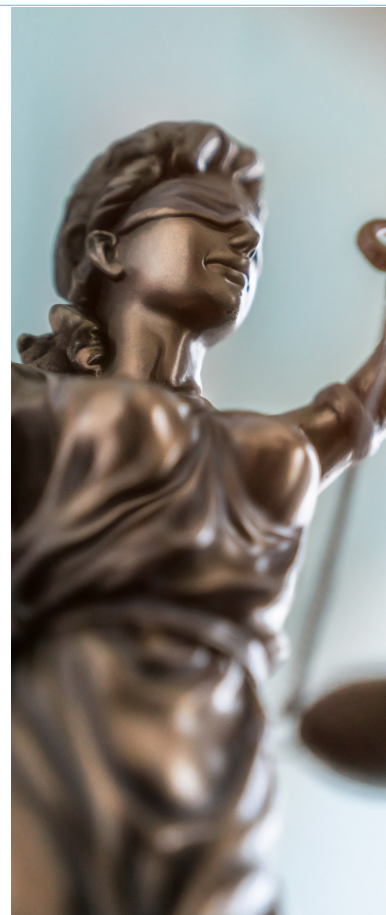
*“Our goal is to make this year’s PSLA about building a community and network “*

## We Want YOUR Ideas!

The Paralegal Student Association is looking for ideas from the Paralegal Students of different activities or resources that they would like to see the PLSA to help arrange throughout the school year—maybe it’s a social hour with other Paralegal Students or a Meet and Greet with different attorneys in different fields.

Our goal is to make this year’s PSLA about building a community and network within the school and one that will carry you into the workforce one you’ve completed your studies with NHCC. We also know that it can be difficult for a lot of students, especially those who began their classes in person, to switch to doing everything remotely, especially if they are in asynchronous classes.

Please reach out and contact a PLSA member with any of your ideas or recommendations or just things you would like to see in general from your PLSA this year.



## Join the PLSA!

Attend one of our virtual meetings for the Fall 2020 Semester.

The First meeting of the semester is Sept 1st, 2020 at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Join as an Officer, or just as a member and help offer ideas or plan events for the Paralegal Students at NHCC!

If you have any questions please reach out to any existing member of the PSLA, or to Carrie Vaia (carrie.vaia@nhcc.edu), our faculty advisor.

Elections for Fall 2020 will be on Tuesday, September 29th at 3:00 PM. Anyone who would like to be an officer should e-mail Amanda (Amanda.Buys@my.nhcc.edu) to be included on the ballot.

## Your PLSA Officers

### President/Editor

Amanda Buys (Nominated)

### Vice-President

### Secretary

### Treasurer

### Media Office

### Faculty Advisor

Carrie Vaia

## About the Paralegal Student Association (PLSA)

The Paralegal Student Association is a wonderful opportunity to connect students in the Paralegal degree and certificate programs with enriching opportunities to supplement their in-class studies. From fun gatherings to trip opportunities across the country—there is an emphasis on opportunities that otherwise would not be available to other students.

The PLSA hosts events such as a graduation party for Paralegal Students; Networking Events with attorneys and paralegals in Minnesota

At the time of this publication the current acting President is Amanda Buys (Amanda.Buys@my.nhcc.edu).

## About Gears of Law and the PLSA

The Gears of Law newsletter is a wonderful resource to keep students in the Paralegal Studies Program informed of the current events and direction of the Paralegal Student Association, as well as provide insight into current events in the legal field and the school. It is to be used as an informal resource to help students on their journey to pursue careers with their Paralegal degrees or certificates.

There is no cost or membership required to access the Gears of Law, but we do strongly encourage all Paralegal students to participate in the PLSA and take advantage of the amazing events and opportunities that we organize. It is also a wonderful way to begin your career by growing your network.

Please reach out if there is a topic you would like to see us address or you would like to submit an article for consideration please send your requests and submissions to the current editor or president of the PLSA.

At the time of this publication the current Editor is Amanda Buys (Amanda.buys@my.nhcc.edu).